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The Playground



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The Playground

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The World at Play.....	439
Leaders in the Recreation Movement II. Mary B. Stewart.....	444
The Iron Man, by <i>Arthur Pound</i>	445
Motion Pictures and the Churches, IV, by <i>Dean Charles N. Lathrop</i>	451 ✓
Music and Recreation, by <i>Peter W. Dykema</i>	453
Good Music for Community Singing, by <i>Archibald T. Davison</i>	455
Music and Democracy, by <i>Dr. Frank Crane</i>	458
To War on Jazz with Better Songs.....	459
Music Notes for the Local Paper.....	460
Music among Womens' Clubs.....	461
Music as a Spur to Production.....	461
A Human Document.....	462
A Workable Plan for Civic Music.....	464
Extracts from The Community: Maker of Men, by <i>Joseph Lee</i>	467
It's All a Game.....	468
The Recreation Worker's Responsibility to His Community, by <i>V. K. Brown</i>	469
Why All Our Ecstasy and Silliness by Proxy?.....	472
Parks and Playgrounds, by <i>Henry V. Hubbard</i>	473
Surfacing Tennis Courts and Playgrounds.....	477 ✓
Storytelling in Elmira, New York, by <i>Florence C. Davis</i>	477 ✓
The Story Hour in Aberdeen.....	478
Stories through the Year.....	479
A Rural Institute.....	479 ✓
Our Children, by <i>Angelo Patri</i>	480
The Coordination of Recreation and Health Activities, by <i>Thaddeus Slesynski</i>	481
A Recipe for Annual Reports.....	483
An Art Industry Which Has Made Good.....	484
Games with Music, III, by <i>Roberta Winans</i>	485
A Fair Playground, by <i>Raymond Quigley</i>	487
One Week's Agreement—Just for Fun.....	488
Children's Play in Hospitals.....	488 ✓
Convention News—American Country Life Association.....	489
The Question Box.....	491
Book Reviews.....	492

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The Playground

Vol. XVI No. 10

JANUARY, 1923

The World at Play

Encouragement from Woodrow Wilson—

Charles F. Weller recently received the following letter regarding the League of Neighbors in Elizabeth, New Jersey:

I hear with great interest of the organization of the League of Neighbors.

You are quite right in thinking that the local community is the fertile seed ground of the national community and the community of nations, and I hope with all my heart that the association you have formed will be successfully copied in many parts of the country. Certainly my earnest good wishes go with it in what it is attempting to do, and I am very proud that the ideals which I have advocated should be deemed an inspiration for what it is attempting.

With respectful salutations to the leaders of the association,

Cordially and Sincerely Yours
WOODROW WILSON

Exhibits at the Congress.—One of the features of the Recreation Congress was the large number of commercial and local exhibits displayed. Interesting and attractive photographs of recreation activities in many cities graced the walls of the lobby of Haddon Hall set aside for this purpose. Several cities also sent costumes and articles of basketry made by the children of the playgrounds. Street showers were brought from Pittsburgh, Paterson and Detroit. An actual demonstration of these showers was given by using one of the regular fire hydrants in Atlantic City.

Besides these local exhibits many publishers displayed books on recreation, folk dancing, music and kindred subjects.*

The exhibit was rounded out by a display of playground apparatus by the Hill Standard

Co., and the American Playground Device Co. of Anderson, Ind.; athletic equipment and "Knock-Down" bleachers by the Leavitt Manufacturing Co. of Urbana, Ill., and Standard Collegiate Supplies Co. of Syracuse, N. Y.; swimming pool filtration apparatus by the Norwood Engineering Co. of Florence, Mass.; and records and instruments for music for folk dancing by the Victor Talking Machine Co. of Camden, N. J. There were also interesting displays by the Child Health Organization of America and the National Child Welfare Association.

Learning City Government on the Playgrounds.—"Notices of election" posted on all Newark playgrounds inform the children that they are to elect five city commissioners from among their number, who are to govern the playground in the same manner the city commissioners govern the city. Candidates are nominated by petition, any boy or girl being eligible to candidacy by having had his or her petition signed by at least twenty-five patrons of the playgrounds.

The playground elections have all the features of a municipal election. Candidates select slogans, such as "For a Better Playground," or "Good Government" and are privileged to make speeches explaining what they stand for and what they propose to do if elected. The city lends real ballot boxes, for the election, into which the playground citizens cast their votes. Election clerks (two boys and two girls) and judges of election (one boy and one girl) are chosen at a primary election.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes becomes Mayor of the playground government. The next in order becomes respectively Police Judge, Police Commissioner and Sanitary Commissioner. Once a week all commissioners meet and enact laws for the government of the playground. They select a

* Books shown by:

A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, N. Y.
Woman's Press, New York, N. Y.
Eldridge Entertainment House, Franklin, Ohio.
Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago, Ill.
Abingdon Press, New York, N. Y.
Edgar S. Werner & Co., New York, N. Y.
Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N. Y.
Henry Holt & Co., New York, N. Y.
University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.
Neva Boyd, Chicago Recreation Training School.
H. W. Wilson Co., New York, N. Y.

City Clerk to act as secretary, and appoint members of the police force and sanitary department.

The civil service examinations which aspirants for the sanitary and the police forces have to pass consist of ten questions about the civic facilities of Newark and its government and why the boy or girl wishes to become a member of the playground sanitary or police department.

Interest in Rural Community Buildings.—

The extent of the interest in community buildings in rural communities is shown by the number of copies of rural community buildings pamphlets that have been circulated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The circulation of Bulletin #825—Rural Community Buildings in the United States—was 20,000; Bulletin #1173—Plans of Rural Community Buildings—was 70,000; Bulletin #1192—Organization of Rural Community Buildings—was 30,000; Bulletin #1274—Uses of Rural Community Buildings—was 30,000.

Winter Play at Ottawa, Canada.—Slides and skating rinks are the most popular recreational facilities in Ottawa during the winter, according to E. F. Morgan, Superintendent of Playgrounds. Last year, there were seven of these slides in operation and many sliding parties were held. Each of the eleven skating rinks had an average attendance of four hundred twenty-one people. Carnivals were the most popular feature of the program. These carnivals were arranged by committees chosen from among those attending the rinks who assumed responsibility for conducting them. The magnavoxes which were used to provide music increased the attendance at the rinks.

Though the attendance for the season was over 238,000 only two people were injured and for these accidents the recreation leaders were not held responsible.

Columbus Day at Turners Falls, Massachusetts.—Columbus Day was a day of athletic activity for the children of Turners Falls, Mass. Unity Park was seething with children from early in the morning until dark, with 500 children actually taking part in the contests. The athletic badge tests of the Playground

and Recreation Association of America were conducted in the morning and eleven boys were successful in qualifying in all the events. In the afternoon were kite flying and other exciting activities. All voted the celebration a genuine success.

A Treasure Hunt at Lancaster.—Twelve schools took part in the treasure hunt held at Buchanan Park on Thanksgiving Day. Each school had a team of eight, (four boys and four girls), chosen from the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. One boy and one girl were elected from each grade. The teams had the privilege of selecting their own captains.

At ten o'clock, the twelve teams assembled at the park and each team was given a chart, indicating direction and places where the treasures were to be found. These treasures were all numbered. The school finding the greatest number of treasures totalling the highest number of points was proclaimed the winner of the Grand Prize. There were also a second school prize and five individual prizes. Each team was followed by a judge.

The prizes which were on exhibition at a local store for three days preceding Thanksgiving were particularly interesting, being as follows:

FIRST PRIZE: Ten volumes, *Every Child Should Know Series*—Hamilton Wright Mabie

SECOND PRIZE: *This Country of Ours*—Marshall.

FIRST INDIVIDUAL PRIZE: (Boy) *Wonder Book of Knowledge*. (Girl) *Mary Francis Book*. Choice of Cooking, Sewing, Crocheting, First Aid.

SECOND INDIVIDUAL PRIZE: (Boy) *Making the Freshman Team*. (Girl) *Patty Fairfield*.

SPECIAL PRIZE: *One Thousand Poems for Children*.



One of the youthful exhibitors with his pets! at the Yakima Pet Show



Contestants for prizes in Yakima's Pet Show

Yakima's Pet Parade.—"Yoo hoo, Skinny—goin' to the parade?" Thus one future citizen of Yakima, Washington, hailed another on a bright Saturday morning last October. The parade referred to was a pet parade, sponsored by Community Service, which the youthful population of Yakima was anticipating to a more than average degree. When the group finally assembled at the court house at 11:30 a. m. a singular variety of pets was on hand. There were goats, cats, canaries, chipmunks, parrots, mud turtles, dogs, rabbits, a duck, a bantam rooster, a spider and even a lady bug. Prizes were awarded the largest, the smallest, the ugliest and the prettiest—though, of course, no matter what the judges thought, each child knew that *his* pet was the nicest one of all.

Is It Worth While to Organize Special Celebrations?—The testimony contained in a letter from Thadd W. Logan, Chief of Police, Kenosha, Wisconsin, regarding the Hallowe'en celebration in that city is indicative of the growing appreciation of such activities.

Chief Logan says, "It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to say that the celebration proved invaluable in the prevention of destruction and crime. For the first time in the history of the city, not a single arrest was made. Only three minor complaints were received, and these not being serious were not entered until after the conclusion of the celebration.

"Let me assure you that I, as police official, greatly appreciate the work of Mr. Bickford in putting over the Hallowe'en doings."

A New Magazine.—*The Jewish Center*, the magazine to be published quarterly by the Jewish

Welfare Board, made its bow to the public in October. Its primary purpose, as outlined by its editor, is to meet the need for a publication which will "devote itself solely and wholeheartedly to the welfare of that ever growing institution known as The Jewish Community Center, which is dedicated to the high purpose of serving as a vehicle for expression in the aims and aspirations, the practical problems, the administration, the professional growth and welfare of workers, the information and guide of trustees in the field of Jewish community service."

"It is not unreasonable," the preface continues, "to hope that *The Jewish Center* may prove interesting and helpful to philanthropists and others who are alert to the requirement of Jewish and general social welfare. Educators, students, and the general public, too, should find in this and succeeding issues of the quarterly things to interest them."

Very full of practical, to-the-point information on center organization and programs is this first issue, and a large field of usefulness may be predicted for it.

Films for the Bed-ridden.—A suggestion for a rather unusual use of the Community Service motion picture films showing recreational activities which are available for use by local recreational groups, comes from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In this city, the films are to be shown at the local hospital where, for the benefit of bed-ridden patients who cannot sit up, the films will be flashed on the ceiling of the ward. Similar showings will be made at other city institutions.

Play in Institutions.—"Play is the normal activity of the child, the most important thing in the most formative period of life, so teaching to play was as careful and dignified a job as teaching to sew or to read." This was one of the fundamental principles on which Alexander Johnson, back in 1893, when he took charge of the Indiana school for feeble-minded, based his system of training in which he has attained so high a degree of success.

Children Who Never Grow Up—Some Adventures among the Feeble-Minded—is the title of a most illuminating article in the Graphic number of the *Survey* for December in which Mr. Johnson tells some of his experiences. Readers of *THE PLAYGROUND*

interested in play in institutions, particularly in institutions for the feeble-minded, cannot afford to miss this human document.

Each According to His Talents.—More and more, volunteers are coming into community recreation. One of the most recent recruits to the movement is an Italian barber in a New Jersey city who volunteered his services once a week to cut bangs, bob hair, or do any of the exceedingly practical things within his sphere of activities. His services, plus the school showers, and the new dresses manufactured on the playground, have resulted in a transformation in the appearance of the juvenile population of that district. "The change," writes the Superintendent of Recreation, "is almost past belief."

The Right Hand of Fellowship.—The following letter was sent by Dr. Davis of the Chicago Theological Seminary to theological schools throughout the country.

One minister in speaking of Community Service has called it the "Practical Arm of the Church". Community Service is anxious to do everything in its power to work with the churches.

No institutions are more eager than Divinity Schools and Theological Schools to welcome the efforts of every organization, secular and religious, that is in the field to help build up human life. Community Service, as you may well know, is a national body which grew out of the War Camp Community Service. During the war, the effort was to deal effectively with the leisure time of the man in training when he came away from his camp and into nearby towns. Now the great object is to deal with the leisure-time problem of the civilian population in such ways as to convert leisure into a community asset rather than letting it become a huge liability.

Besides the general service that is being rendered to the country in the way of stimulation and education on this subject, this national body is helping communities directly to establish local programs of activities for all the people, activities that touch the physical, mental, social and moral sides of life.

I am taking the liberty of aiding in the distribution of the latest annual report of Community Service, Incorporated, among all the Theological Seminaries of the country in the hope that this document will be carefully read not only by the officials of the seminaries, but by their students, since this movement is such a splendid far-reaching and promising pioneering effort along greatly needed lines. A copy will come to you under separate cover and if you desire more of them, a line dropped to the Headquarters, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City, will bring them to you.

With fraternal regards, I am very truly yours,
(Signed) OZORA S. DAVIS

Endorsements.—The following resolutions were recently adopted:

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION:

INASMUCH as Public Playgrounds are one of the greatest assets to any city as a measure of providing healthful activities, mental training, and of inculcating higher ideals of citizenship and good government in the children of all Pennsylvania where they are operating:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Instructors of the Pennsylvania State League of Nursing Education now in convention assembled at Wilkes-Barre, endorse the movement of municipal governments and organizations of leading citizens working with Community Service and the Playground and Recreation Association of America in establishing playgrounds in sufficient number in all Pennsylvania cities, under proper supervision, to provide adequately for their needs.

FROM THE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA IN CONVENTION AT WILKES-BARRE:

THAT we endorse the movement of municipal government and organizations of leading citizens working with the Community Service and the Playground and Recreation Association of America in establishing playgrounds in sufficient number in all cities of Pennsylvania, to prevent juvenile delinquency, street accidents, and to provide healthful exercise through efficient supervision.

Resolutions Adopted.—At the convention of the American Legion at New Orleans, Louisiana, the following resolutions were adopted:

AMATEUR ATHLETICS

WHEREAS, a large proportion of the men examined for selective service were found physically unfit, a condition due to lack of fundamental physical training, and,

WHEREAS, The American Legion firmly believes in the vital necessity of adequate physical training for all the nation, and in the importance of amateur athletics, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Legion hereby authorizes its officers and pledges its members, to cooperate with agencies and organizations which promote amateur athletics, to the end that in another national emergency the manhood of America may not be found wanting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the training of all school children for health and normal physical development is an important part of all round education for American citizenship, and

WHEREAS, a large proportion of the school children of this country are not receiving this fundamental training, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Legion hereby directs its officers and pledges its members to cooperate with such agencies as are undertaking to promote effectively the establishment of adequate physical education for all school children of the nation.

A Word to the Wise.—The October, 1922, issue of *The American City* magazine in an article entitled *What Some Mayors Think of Prohibition*, says:

"Many city officials who favor the enforcement of the Volstead Act, and many who favor a more liberal interpretation of the Eighteenth Amendment, are a unit in desiring no return of the old fashioned saloon. Too little attention has been given, however, to the supplying of substitutes for the saloon, in its desirable function of the 'poor man's club.' *The American City* commends to all who are solicitous for the welfare of their fellow citizens the providing of more adequate facilities for outdoor and indoor fellowship and

recreation, where the fundamental human need for companionship and play can find an outlet under the best possible conditions. If we wish to prevent the return of the saloon, let us by all means provide a moral equivalent for this ancient institution of city life."

More about Juvenile Delinquency.—District Attorney Thomas C. O'Brien, in speaking before a meeting of the Boston Women's Civic Club, on the subject of crime, its causes, and prevention, made the following statements:

"We've got to stop the boys and girls from becoming juvenile offenders. That's our job. The streets after dark are a breeding place of crime. We are apt to pay too much attention to the physical aspect of a situation and not to the moral.

"We spend much energy and time to clear swamps and breeding places of disease, but we do not pay much attention to providing places for boys and girls to play in between school hours and dark. We have got to begin in the community at the root of the trouble and that is with the youngster, or we will have one crime wave after another.

"We must stop boys and girls from becoming criminals in their youth. We must punish parents for neglecting their children."

Experiments in New Bedford, Mass.—The school committee of New Bedford tried out last year, in connection with its summer playground work, some interesting experiments which have been reported by Mr. Donaghy, Supervisor of Playgrounds. Because of limited funds and the necessity of devising means for saving money, it was decided to try out the plan, thought by some to be out of the question, of having the children pay for the material used in handicraft work. Though this plan was very much an experiment, the returns showed that the department was obliged to pay only \$40.77 or one-thirtieth of the entire bill for materials.

The picnics which were held during the summer were a very successful feature of the

program. "While the idea, of course, was not an innovation," writes Mr. Donaghy, "it was decidedly new to have some of the people in the city come forward and offer financial aid." The money which came in, together with an equal appropriation from the city, was used to furnish transportation and to buy milk, ice cream, and similar refreshments. Some of the children who attended the picnics had never before been either to the country or the seashore.

Another experiment was that of holding individual exhibits of handicraft. This plan enabled parents to see their children's work and prove to the children that their efforts were appreciated. On August 26 there were displayed over four thousand pieces of handicraft, made by and paid for by the children of the city.

Italy to Have a Cabinet Post for Sports.—According to a recent Associated Press release, the Mussolini government will soon create an under secretary of state for sports and physical culture, similar to the office held in France by Gaston Vidol. This under secretariat, which will form a part of the ministry of the Interior, will be directed by Aldo Finzi, former aviator and champion motorcycle driver. The under secretary will collaborate with the Italian Olympic Committee in preparation for Italy's participation in the next Olympic games.

A Fund for Enjoyment.—By the terms of the will of George Robert White of Boston, there has been created the George Robert White fund, the net income of which is to be used for "creating works of public utility and for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the city of Boston. . . . No part of said income, however, shall be used for a religious, political, educational, or any purpose which it shall be the duty of the city in the ordinary course of events to provide."

The worst indictments which can be brought against the patriotism of the individual are first ignorance and then the indifference with which he carries his local citizenship. You can win no higher decoration than the knowledge that you have served with such ability as you possess, and always with sensitive honor, your town, your state or your nation as your fortune may have led you. What this country needs today above all else is the participation of trained minds and high characters in its public affairs.

LIVINGSTON FARRAND

Leaders in The Recreation Movement



MARY B. STEUART Baltimore, Md.]

All persons interested in recreational work for children will be sorry to hear of the resignation of Miss Mary B. Steuart from the Baltimore Playground Association.

The first Baltimore playground was opened twenty-five years ago, Miss Steuart being in charge, and from that time to this she has given her whole mind and heart to the development of the work. Due to her true conception of what recreational opportunities for children should be and her courage in following out her ideas she kept the Baltimore playgrounds well in the van of the playground movement throughout the country. She soon saw the need of trained leaders for the playground, and, in consequence, established a training school, the first but one in the country. She built up a community interest and secured the cooperation and support of the municipality, thus putting the work on a solid foundation and assuring its future progress.

Indeed few of us can look back on a service so whole-heartedly given and so productive of permanent good to the community. She will be sadly missed from our playground workers.

M. LEM. ELLICOTT.

Sociability between City and Country

Mr. E. C. Lindeman in an article on Recreation and Sociable Life between City and Country says "The things which separate man from man are mostly superficial. Country folks are very much like city folks . . . What has tended to separate country people from city people during the period of our industrial expansion are artificial standards of value. The city has come to evaluate certain things in modern life in such manner as to make their possession a desideratum in social standing. To the country inhabitant, honest relationships to the soil and to man are still the factors which determine the position which a person shall hold in the community. . . . Getting country folks and city folks together sounds splendid; it is, however, merely the first and the easiest step toward the creation of good will and a national unity. We must prepare for the content of such gatherings; there must be something vital and significant taking place when such folks intermingle. The best

way to know people is to have common but vital relationships with them. The cooperative movement has in it the seeds of a mighty revolution.

. . . Community houses, rest rooms, built for country people are not in themselves guarantees of sound social relationships. To build social structures of enduring capacities implies a certain sharing of vital activities. The farmer does not wish to have the city entertain him; he has untouched sociable resources which need to be blended with those of the city. . . . the problem of establishing good human relations between town and country is a problem which can be approached with more likelihood of success by children than by adults. Children do not feel social distinctions until they receive the suggestion from their elders. Moreover children express their dominant natures in their play activities; these are to them the most vital expressions of life. To bring about a proper understanding of city and country we must begin by eliminating artificial difference in the minds of the children.

The Iron Man*

ARTHUR POUND

New York Evening Post

The use which society makes of its leisure determines to what extent society can overcome the ill effects of automatic production, among which may be listed briefly the following: Lessened interest in work for its own sake, concentration on the money reward instead of the tempering of that material satisfaction by the craftsman's pride in the worthiness of a completed product, the growing gulf between the wage-earner and his real boss in sympathy and social concern, the monotony of the shop which creates an appetite for thrills outside the shop, the dilution of labor forces by low-grade mentalities equal to automatized tasks and unequal to the more skilled production of the past, with all that means to body and brain of our citizenship hereafter. All these subversive tendencies of industrialism are with us. Their effects appear in strikes, in revolutionary discontent, in physical and mental disabilities such as are revealed to us appallingly in the draft statistics, in the feverish rush for commercialized amusements pandering to the primitive instincts.

Your Association has done me a great honor and greater service on this occasion. We who think in terms of social values must support one another in our grapple with the discords of existence. Life to us is not a matter of every man for himself and the Devil takes the hindmost, because our experience proves that on that selfish basis the Devil, having plenty of time, will pick us off one by one from the rear and eventually master the situation. Instead, we prefer to live, precariously perhaps, by the rule of everyone for everyone else. This audience, I realize, is composed of persons who have been living by this rule in places where the problems that result from industrial growth have pressed upon them.

A NEWSPAPER MAN'S POINT OF VIEW

For twenty years or so, I have worked in factory towns—Flint, Detroit, Akron, Pontiac, Grand Rapids, Indianapolis. Most of that time I did newspaper work, was reporter, editorial writer, editor, manager. Whatever else newspaper work may be, and I realize that the press falls as far short of its responsibilities and opportunities as many other institutions, it has the merit of breadth. None will deny the newspaper breadth, even though it be convicted of shallowness at the same moment. But at any rate, the newspaper man in a factory town must keep himself and his office open to all sorts and conditions of men and to all sorts of ideas. He must

bear his community's burdens; he is part of humanity's shock troops on the line of progress, and he must forever strive to see his people as they are. In the cities, newspaper work has gone far toward specialization; but in the provinces, a newspaper man must still be a generalist. Of late there has been a steady drive toward specialization in all branches of work. As President Morgan of Antioch College, himself one of America's greatest specialists, observed truly, we Americans think that when we have divided life into as many compartments as possible, and put a specialist in charge of each of them, nothing remains to be done. There never was a greater fallacy, a more dangerous conceit. For life remains one and indivisible, a unity, for better or worse. Touch life here and it reacts there. You cannot disconnect the home and the factory, the worker and the husband, father or son. All are interrelated. While life may be taken apart in books and theses, it cannot be taken apart in actuality without serious and often disconcerting results.

Perhaps you know the story of the man who, tired of life, took his only son with him to raise horses way out in the Northwest. The boy grew up knowing nothing but horses, and never seeing a woman. At the age of about twenty, his father thought perhaps the boy had over specialized in horses, so he took him down to Duluth to see something of life. On the streets there, the boy saw a strange object and asked his father what it was. "That is a woman. Take a good look at her, for the chances are you will

*Address given at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, Oct. 10, 1922.

marry one of them. I am going to show you some nice women down here. You may marry one of them and take her back to the woods with you. I will go on east, but after awhile, I will come back and see how you are getting on." The father's program went through, and when he returned, he found the boy looking rather blue and the wife nowhere in sight. "What is the matter? Where is your wife?" asked the father. "Well," said the son, "things went well for awhile, but one day she went out to get a pail of water and she broke her leg, and I had to shoot her."

DISQUIETING OBSERVATIONS OF AMERICAN LIFE

That illustrates some of the dangers of overspecialization, and it establishes a standpoint from which I want to speak to you tonight. You must not look to me for an expert opinion upon mechanics or psychology or recreation, but where these strands cross in the tangled skein of existence, there I have been standing with my eyes and my mind open, and perhaps I have seen some things and thought some things which may be of value. That you hope so is proved by my presence here. That I hope so is based, not only upon what your officers have been kind enough to say to me in private, but upon the reception which the public gave to certain writings of mine appearing in the *Atlantic Monthly* and later collected in a book called *The Iron Man in Industry*. That work was an adventure of faith, undertaken under conviction of necessity. As I watched my fellow citizens at their work and play, the conviction grew that some of the newer developments of industry were nullifying certain of the traditional boons we had taken for granted here in America, and were confounding what the optimists among us choose to call evolution. In particular, it seemed to me that the present generation is threshing about, like a blind giant, in an elemental conflict. On the one side of this struggle are ranged the

Well, what then? As things go, only comparatively few people get much out of leisure. They are chiefly odd and unusual people, more or less self-trained, because most of our training energies up to this time have gone into training people how to work. Training people how to play is a relatively new adventure. Yours is an indispensable profession, because the leisure is here and growing, and unless that leisure be constructively used it will be used destructively more and more. Life, like Nature, abhors vacuums; she fills it with something, for better or worse.

wealth and applied science, security and industry; on the other the brave but confused spirit of a people who can never forget they were promised freedom and independence in the public schools. Emerson's words came to me: "the final value of life is the active soul." A mechanized civilization, in which the rank and file shall be regimented for wealth, production, and security, versus the culture of the active soul which keeps the individual strong and free, with full opportunity for joy and self-expression—that seems to me the central struggle of our society. The reception which those writings received were convincing evidence that others—many others—were thinking along the same line. Indeed, there was little enough that was new in the presentation. Whatever we do about our old wine and new bottles in these dry days, at least we must come back in new situations to old truths.

HAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION BROUGHT GREATER HAPPINESS?

Cabot said, "Four things we live by—work, play, love, and worship." Labor is the price of life, a means to existence, but not the end of existence. Through ap-

plied science and the skilful organization of productive services, the modern world has multiplied the means of existence; but even a cursory reading of the newspapers presents a grave doubt whether life gives to the common man greater satisfaction than before. The market is flooded with books pessimistic as to the state of society, books which hint darkly the general conclusion that what the human race needs is another flood, provided there is no ark handy. Tipper, a business man, writing for business men, says, "these great specialized and concentrated industries of the present have in some cases established a servitude worse than physical servitude."

Population has increased; there are twice as many people alive on the earth than there were 80 years ago, but their sorrows seem no less than those of their ancestors. A distinguished British physician, after a search into the

causation of cancer, places his finger on this cause. "Increased worry and sorrow through seventy years of civilization." Insanity in Massachusetts, through a like period of industrial development, rose in the ratio of 5 to 13 per 1,000 of population. Draft figures show that Rhode Island, our state of densest industrial development, is lowest in the physical fitness of its men, while Kansas, where the slow, old life of agriculture dominates, produces the best sort of citizens, physically.

HUMANITY NOT YET ADJUSTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

These disturbing facts may be explained in various ways; but however explained, they indicate clearly a failure to accommodate human individuals to the scheme of things ushered in by the Industrial Revolution. Let us examine for a moment those processes developed since, and some of their effects upon human nature. It is not quite 150 years since the steam engine became a practicable tool; in less than seven generations, a majority of the inhabitants of the coal and iron states have become dependent upon machinery non-existent before. Insurance statistics place the life expectancy of the farmer at 58 years; the office clerk at 36 years. Not only do business men lead sedentary lives, but the working habits of factory workers are becoming more and more sedentary as machines are improved. At present, only 29 per cent of our people live on farms; considerably more than half live in towns and cities above 2500 population, and since land is the most secure element in production, one result of this migration has been a decrease in the common man's security. This insecurity of labor on the job is one of the disquieting elements of our present position, as you know so well, and as the politicians the world over are discovering.

Our industrial evolution has been and is a complicated process mechanically; but two main strands run through it. One is the division of labor; the other is the transfer of skill from man to machine. Both tend to reduce individual responsibility and the workman's interest. Division of labor has proceeded so far that hundreds of persons are engaged in making a single pair of shoes, a coat, or a beefsteak. This is by no means a modern phenomenon; all the way from Egyptian bas-reliefs to the Wedgewood work-records there is evidence that men very sensibly

broke up jobs into several parts for reasons based upon natural aptitude or training. But the industrial revolution hastened and intensified the process, whereas the Egyptian scrolls show a half dozen butchers at work on the carcass of a steer, some 400 work on your steak in the Chicago stockyards from the time the animal leaves one car intact and enters other cars dismembered. And each of these 400 does but one small part of the major operation. The process is still going on. A shovel manufacturer, looking upon the only man in his employ who seemed to be getting any fun out of his work through the diversity of his motions and the many calls upon his skill and judgment, remarked that the operation should be and would be broken up into ten parts, one man to each part. Everywhere in large scale industry the tendency is to push division of labor to its extreme limits.

EARLY DIVISION OF LABOR

But though long practiced, division of labor hardly could have gone much further than it was in the middle of the eighteenth century except for the impulse given it by machine development. Transfer of skill from men to machinery began almost immediately after Wilkinson succeeded, in that great war of 1776, in boring cylinders that would hold compression. Thereupon, the steam engine ceased being a laboratory toy and became a motive force in society. The first man to give the principle practical application and a voice appears to have been Samuel Bentham, brother of Jeremy Bentham, the philosopher of "pleasure-pain" fame. In Southern Russia, while in the service of the Czarina, Samuel Bentham found himself short a Black Sea fleet in a country where there were few or no skilled shipwrights. So he conceived the idea of making ship blocks with machinery and unskilled labor. Balked there, he returned to England, and became a lord of the admiralty. In command of state funds, he began the erection of the first truly modern factory—the first, that is, with an installation of machinery permitting the mass production of interchangeable parts. The machines were designed by Brunel and made by Maudsley—notable names in the history of the machine industry. Opened in 1805 and completed some years later, that ship block factory at Portsmouth determined in advance that England should rule the waves in wooden ships and send Napoleon to St. Helena a prisoner. Nelson, Wellington, and Blucher get credit in the

histories for defeating Napoleon, but they must have failed in their objective except for that other and little known triumvirate of Bentham, Brunel, and Maudsley.

America was close behind. Our Eli Whitney had been thinking right along with Bentham; by 1812, Whitney could say of his small arms factory in Connecticut that its "great leading feature is to substitute correct and effective operations of machinery for that skill of the artist which is acquired only by long practice and experience—a species of skill which is not possessed in this country to any appreciable extent."

INDUSTRIES COMMITTED TO AUTOMATIC PRODUCTION

From that day to this, we have gone far, until at present our socially important industries, important by reason of the numbers employed and volume of goods produced, are thoroughly committed to the idea of skill-transference. Indeed, Karl Zimmerschied, now president of a great motor company, said in 1916 that America could never have taken advantage of her industrial opportunity except for automatic machinery which enabled unskilled labor to be used in producing large quantities of accurately interchangeable parts, capable of quick assembly into intricate goods. The process is by no means complete, and such is the variety of ways in which men make their living that there will always be exceptions; but I think we must look forward to the time when the principle of automatic production, now functioning most efficiently in our great automobile plants, will be the guiding principle in the industries which shape our lives and those of our fellow men. No sane man is going to build a large factory today and fill it with anything but the most improved and fool-proof machinery. Competition, economic considerations so fundamental that they are not to be denied, will force conformity to those principles. Progress toward that end can be noted wherever you turn in industry. Automatization—quantity production with mechanical aids so devised as to call less and less upon the initiative of the operatives—is the dominant principle of American industry on its productive side, and whoever neglects to reckon with its social effects is blind.

Criticism has been made that *The Iron Man* is too broad a generalization from close observation of the automobile industry. It is true, the

automatic principle had a wonderful opportunity in that industry, but it is also true that in economics, you do not need a quantitative test after you have had a qualitative test. The main feature of the automobile industry today is probably the accurate manufacture of separate parts and their swift assembly, although the shoe factories are not far behind in this feature. In the automobile industry, it is in the assembling line that one sees a moving presentation of the new way of making things. The conveyor moves along from one end of the great building to the other, and of the hundreds of persons along the line, each has a certain number of seconds in which to do his particular operation. There was an old man who for several years had been giving a half turn to a certain part numbered 87 as each chassis came to his position. On his death bed, he was asked if there was anything he would like to say before he departed this life, and his reply was: "It is too late now, but all these years I have been wanting to take that other half turn on old 87, and finish the job." It may be hard for the people in this audience to realize all that that remark means, because you are in a position to finish your job. Even the common man likes to finish his job, to see a completed product, to get some praise for his work.

THE BOON OF LEISURE

What are the good and bad effects of this kind of production? It is obvious they are not all bad. In the first place, there has been a cheapening of production, and so a raising of the standards of living. The other great boon has been an increase in leisure. I hold that the greatest boon of all because it is of the spirit and not of matter. However, leisure has not been in itself a boon, but rather an opportunity by no means fully or properly exploited as yet. The use which society makes of its leisure determines to what extent society can overcome the ill effects of automatic production, among which may be listed briefly the following: Lessened interest in work for its own sake, concentration on the money reward instead of the tempering of that material satisfaction by the craftsman's pride in the worthiness of a completed product, the growing gulf between the wage-earner and his real boss in sympathy and social concern, the monotony of the shop which creates an appetite for thrills outside the shop, the dilution of labor forces by low-grade mentalities equal to

automatized tasks and unequal to the more skilled production of the past, with all that means to body and brain of our citizenship hereafter. All these subversive tendencies of industrialism are with us. Their effects appear in strikes, in revolutionary discontent, in physical and mental disabilities such as are revealed to us appallingly in the draft statistics, in the feverish rush for commercialized amusements pandering to the primitive instincts.

But over against these already operating influences, we have put one great gain—leisure—which, if rightly used, might more than compensate for the more serious of these social disabilities. How much leisure can we count upon? Hours of labor are decreasing; they are almost certain to decrease still more. Between increased production, union pressure and the world-wide drive to rid earth of that arch-consumer, War, it is a foregone conclusion that for many years at least one's material wants will be satisfied with decreasing effort. Population does increase but not fast enough to cope with the inventors. Foreign trade, we are beginning to see, is not a bottomless pit into which goods may be dumped indefinitely. The inventors have the long day on the run. More leisure for the common man, for the working classes, seems to me a futurity beyond question. War or revolution may interrupt its coming, but not for long. The other day, I met a man just out of Russia who said the chief officials of Soviet Russia were riding in Rolls-Royce limousines, while the common folks were still far from affording Fords. That forces us to revise our concept of Russia. The old one was based on the popular steel engraving which showed a sleigh drawn by three plunging horses pursued by wolves. Now it appears that the wolves do not chase the limousines; instead, they ride in them. But such interferences are but temporary.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

As an indication of the way the trade winds of economics blow across the earth toward more

leisure, let me refer you to the report of the Federated American Engineering Societies on working hours in the continuous industries. Here is a representative body of men whose first interest is production. They hire two qualified investigators. After several years, they reach and publish the conclusion that the eight hour day is entirely feasible in continuous industries, even in the steel industry. They say the trend is unmistakable toward the three-shift day, but being practical and conservative men, they say the change must be carefully prepared for in advance. Labor must be prepared to take slightly less for eight hours than for twelve; on the other hand, the differential will not come out of employer's pocket or the market entirely, because experience shows an increase in efficiency under the eight-hour system, in some cases as high as 25 per cent. Ford's blast

furnace operations are cited as an example of efficient production on the short day and a high wage scale. Thus proceeds inexorably the evolution toward shorter hours. And it is entirely possible that after the eight-hour day has arrived at full estate, the six-hour day will be set up as a goal.

No wealth, no science can save a people from decline when the amateur spirit has gone completely to seed. Ours hasn't gone yet; there still exists among us in each rising generation an appetite for rugged contests, for games of skill, for clean, self-willed social amusements. But that appetite, unaided and unguided, has precious small chance against the amusement profit-mongers on the one hand and the mechanizing influences of industrial civilization on the other.

That depends as much upon the willingness of men and women to tend fast-moving machines as it does upon the number of hours they work.

Do not misunderstand me. For several years, largely as a result of labor's war and post war demands, the eight-hour day has made swift advances. But the counter attack has now set in. The National Industrial Conference Board prints Stinnes' conclusion that the eight-hour day is retarding Germany's economic recovery, and in cities, both here and abroad, there are "numerous organized movements—all aiming to secure the repeal or mitigation of the (short day) legislation which is very widely felt to have a seriously hampering effect on industrial efficiency." Yes, the counter attack on the eight-hour day is under way. The answer to Stinnes and his followers is obvious. Europe's recovery depends upon many factors, upon political, financial and economic readjustments. Until the

statesmen and financiers clear away the rubbish that now chokes industrial efforts, the full productive power of the eight-hour day cannot be demonstrated there. While statesmen remain mad and selfish, you cannot expect labor to be altogether sane and sacrificial. Get ready to defend the eight-hour day where it exists, and to fight for it where it does not exist—for in the present ordering of industry the salvation of the world depends more upon the broad distribution of leisure and its constructive use than upon the multiplication of wealth-forms in speeded-up production.

What of the present filling? No one who knows history can view the present commercialized amusement undisturbed. For want of facilities and training in play, we are in danger of becoming a nation of bleacherites. Like Greece and Rome in their decline we sit and gaze upon professional athletes in the arena and at professional dancing girls on the stage. Vespasian built the Coliseum in order that all Rome could be bleacherite and three hundred years later Alaric crashed through a worn-out civilization to sack Rome.

We are not so sure of the future as we were before the war. All who love this republic must realize that though the war brought us power and treasure, it did some damage to our common faith and our common ideals. As the *New Republic* recently said, we thought our manifest destiny was Heaven on Earth and now we must admit the case is not so simple. Every day we seem to be growing more dependent upon one another and yet more disunited in spirit and aims. As the recesses of civilization grow more complicated, more persons arise to throw monkey wrenches into them. I am not here to pass judgment on groups and classes; we need them all in their more gracious manifestations as citizens and members of the community. We want their money, their time, their cooperation, their confidence in coming to a new national vision and a new plan of social salvation. And as the steadfast need of an industrial society is mental, moral and physical health, so one of the chief planks in the American platform must be encouragement of your work of

educating the masses to entertain themselves cleanly, delightfully, vigorously. Play must come to be recognized for what it is—a Godly thing and one of Life's greatest blessings. Or to paraphrase Shakespeare—play that breaks up the dusty frame of care, balm of hurt minds and angry soul's release, sore Nature's healing sport.

THE AMERICAN DESERT

On the old maps of the United States used to appear a great blank labelled "The American Desert." It is smaller now, thanks to the faith and ambition and science and toil of those who have brought water to it, tilled and brought railroads to its service. But while these noble forces have been plotting a great desert out of one place, they have by a whimsy of fate been creating, little deserts here and there in older parts of the country—communities, that is to say, where the old graces, glories and freedoms and vigors of America seem crushed under the weight of an industrialism more keen on profits than on human values. In all walks of life men and women are making these little deserts bloom again with neighborliness, health and joy. There is the battlefield of the future; there you have unfurled your standard, there rich and poor alike look to you for guidance and inspiration, for yours is a work in which rich and poor, employer and employee, can join hands with right good will. The only sort of welfare work I have had much faith in is community welfare work, because it bridges the ever widening social gap. It is a bridge with human bastions and pillars. You are those pillars; hold fast in faith. Though that dread impersonalism—the Iron Man—contend against you, yet shall you triumph even over him. And so shall we see at last this vision of America come to pass;

O beautiful to patriot dream
To see beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.
America, America,
God shed his grace on thee;
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Motion Pictures and the Churches

IV

DEAN CHARLES N. LATHROP

Of the Social Service Commission of the Federal
Council of Churches

All social betterment is a matter of educating the oncoming generation.

The public school and the religious education departments of the churches can do more to improve recreational standards than all other agencies combined.

The prevalence of the bad picture is due to the prevalence of bad taste and low morals.

This is the fourth of a series of four articles summarizing a study of motion pictures made by the Social Service Commission of the Federal Council of Churches. It is a remarkable survey of conditions, and its findings and conclusions are practicable and sane. It should be read not only by producers, distributors and exhibitors, but also by parents and all who attend the motion picture performances.

A number of conclusions are presented in this concluding section of the study of the motion picture problems of the country by the Social Service Commission of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. The chief of them is that motion pictures should be thought of and talked of not as a troublesome problem but as one of the chief assets of the community for education and betterment.

A number of conclusions are obvious. First the mass of people recognize the need of some social control of moving pictures. They have become the greatest source of amusement and recreation, we can fairly say, in the world. And they are a commercialized amusement.

The mere fact that the moving picture interests can afford to draw into their employ a member of the Cabinet of the President of the United States to be their head and representative suggests their position and their power. A great commercialized amusement calls for some measure of social control. This principle holds true quite without regard to the opinion one may hold of the standards of art and morals maintained in the moving pictures that are being shown.

The only question is, what measure and what kind of social control?

It certainly ought to be a control that places the responsibility squarely on those who produce the pictures. And—since they produce for the whole nation—it ought to be national control. There will always be great opposition on the part of a large proportion of American citizens to a law establishing a Federal Board of Censorship.

A large part of the American people object to censorship. They feel, rightly or wrongly, that it suggests limitation of American liberty, especially in a situation where there are no settled standards and where the pictures often present the news and opinions of the day. The Board of Censors can easily be capricious, prejudiced and narrow.

Many are thus brought to the conclusion that the system of licensing would obviate this criticism and offer a better method. The decision as to the wisest and fairest method of control is left to the reader.

Another conclusion stands out clearly. The people locally, in a community, can effect good results by organized cooperation, in furnishing a medium through which the community can register its judgment and its desires in the matter of the choice of films, working in cooperation with the producers. This kind of effort is easily within the reach of any local group of people who really want better things.

Certain situations exist in which the church or the community center can exert a direct and immediate influence on the screen. When the social and recreation life of a community is centered in such an institution the exhibitions which it provides tend to be a substitute for commercialized amusement. The true community church—that is, a church which actually ministers to a physical community as a whole—can

sometimes go far toward filling the popular demand for recreation.

But all social betterment is ultimately a matter of educating the oncoming generation. Whatever may be done to enrich the lives of all of us who control the present order of things, should of course be done, but the progress of the world is mainly in the hands of those who are still young.

The public school and the religious education departments of the churches can do more to improve recreation standards than all other agencies combined. The method may be indirect but none the less effective.

Romantic love is the dominant motif of the screen, as of the stage and novel. The education of this impulse on its instinctive side and in its more voluntary and spiritual phases will furnish the permanent corrective that we seek. Sex education is too generally a half-apologetic and uncertain approach to the unmentionable. This is because it is mainly negative. It needs to be spiritualized by the introduction of a definite motive—the culture of love. As this motive becomes more dominant in all education it will aid in overcoming the evils of eroticism and sensuality.

The prevalence of the bad picture is due to the prevalence of bad taste and low ideals. Such pictures are a crime against art as well as against morals.

What is truly artistic is not likely to be condemned as immoral, save by extremists. This is illustrated by the fact, for example, that no one thinks of draping the nude figures in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The development of artistic appreciation is primarily the business of the schools. On the moral side the efforts of the schools are supplemented by the church.

A wholesome attitude toward life and a sense of proportion as to its values render uncouthness disgusting, wanton violence intolerable, and lewdness and sexual promiscuity repulsive. There is no quick route to this attainment, but there is no shorter path to a higher plane of social living. The moving picture screen reflects the

prevailing social ideals and its standards will be raised permanently only as there is progress in the life of the whole community.

The immediate duty of the churches, considered locally, would seem to be to secure an intelligent study on the part of their members of the problems set forth in these pages with a view to determining what method of social control is best. But without reference to legislative proposals there is a local task for every community that has a picture theatre. In nearly every parish and congregation there are men and women well qualified to study the motion picture situation in the local community. The method pursued in gathering information for the present study is commended to any community seeking light on the motion picture problem.

Wherever possible an interchurch committee should be selected. This committee should not only report on conditions, but should wrestle with the problem of standards and seek to develop a policy which the community may be urged to adopt.

When the facts are in hand and a judgment as to standards has been formed, it is necessary to determine a policy. No single right procedure can be prescribed, but there is one that may safely be pronounced always wrong. That is, to launch immediately a crusade against the picture exhibitors. They are a part of a big system for which they are only partly responsible. They are also members of the community. They may actually share, privately, the opinions of the investigating committee.

In any case they will respond much more favorably to an effort toward community betterment that takes them in than toward one that is avowedly hostile. Compulsion should be a last resort.

All efforts should be positive and constructive. Emphasis should be placed on the encouragement of the good rather than the suppression of the evil. And the motion picture screen should be thought of and talked of not as a troublesome problem but as one of the chief assets of the community for education and betterment.

Music and Recreation

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Do you remember Bully Bottom in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and his boastful claims to the privilege of playing every part in the mechanics' play? If the musician were to speak his mind freely on the question of what part music shall have in recreation, I fear you might find in him a counterpart of the usurping weaver. Or even if music did not lay claim to all of the helpful roles assigned to recreation, she might at least say that practically no other recreation activity could long continue without calling upon her aid. Consider its multiple forms. From the haughty independence of a virgin queen on through that of the noble consort; of the loftiest creations of mankind; the sweet idyllic expressions of rustic swains; the accompaniment of roistering merry-makers; or on down to the wildest and meanest orgies of savages,—it would seem that music was ready in any role from *grande dame* to scrub woman to aid mankind in every type of recreation. Now it may call forth visions of purest serenity and inspiration and again it may whip into a frenzy the wildest and most primitive of feelings. For any sounds arranged with rhythmic coherence, however slight their melody, however lacking their harmony, these may claim kinship with the austere goddess of music.

In this wide appeal of music and the variety of forms it assumes to meet the tastes of all its adherents lie both the blessing and the curse. Doubtless you recreation workers will say that music merely shares, possibly to an unusual degree, the fortunes of recreation as a whole. Just as the problem of the recreation worker is to see that greater health in the broad sense is produced, so the lover of music desires ever increasing wholesomeness to result from the practice of his art. In striving for the end he is too frequently met, as you recreation workers in other branches are met, with an unduly restricted conception of what recreation is.

It has been a great delight to me to see the broadening and deepening conception of recreation such as your leaders are advocating. In

music we have to face the necessity of many years of propaganda to convince people that music and recreation means something besides noisy mass singing of commonplace songs and hilarious dancing to over emphasized cacophonies. I do not mean to say that no one recognizes the recreative aspects of quieter and finer kinds of music, but I do mean to say that with very large numbers of people recreation with music means thoughtlessness or froth. If I may speak of playground workers I have met, I may say in more than one instance I have heard them insist most ardently on the necessity of good games and rigidly supervised sports and then throw themselves, with great abandon into the singing of cheap songs and the dancing to music that is little better than barbaric.

Let me digress here a moment to say something on the subject of music for dancing. I am not one who condemns in toto that modern dance music which is so frequently anathematized under the name of jazz. Jazz music has a comparatively new rhythmic arrangement of tones; has a piquancy, verve and stimulating quality which form a real contribution to music. The objections to it lie in the way it is used. It is so atrociously presented with drums, gongs, cowbells, rattles, raucous whistles, and other nerve wracking devices that the musical element is almost obliterated. Again, it is so exclusively used that no opportunity is given for the introduction of good music. As a result, our people are losing those finer susceptibilities to rhythm which arise when the supplying of some of the rhythmic impulse is left to the listener. The poorer dance music and the poorer popular songs leave nothing for us to do—we need not listen, we need not think. All we do is pay the piper, press the button, and the noise will do the rest.

It is doubtful whether a good recreation program can be built up on the old theory of charity when the right hand did not know what the left hand was doing. The playground and game worker, if he wishes to have his guidance reënforced by music, must encourage musical endeavors that are on at least as high a plane as

*Address given at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 11, 1922.

his work. This means good music for calisthenics and marching; good music in the musical entertainment; good music for pageantry and drama and good music for dancing. The elaborate machinations of the trap drummer are not necessary for good dancing. Scores of dancing masters are finding that legitimate music, if rigorously adhered to, will eventually be preferred by even the wildest modern devotees of the voodoo-worshippers of darkest Africa incantations. Make your music sufficiently subdued so that the dancers will have to listen for it and thus assume a bit of responsibility by producing in themselves something of a rhythmic response.

This same advice applies to the whole subject of community singing. Here is a recreative agency whose values as an all-year-round activity we are just beginning to recognize. All of us were enthusiastic over the war "community sing," which came into prominence with enlistment drives, conservation campaigns and sales of liberty bonds and savings stamps. To many its usefulness ceased when the war was over, and it became a thing of the past. But no! This age-long solace of mankind, this medium which had responded to every emotion was designed for a greater place in a democracy than merely to stir up and give vent to the war spirit. We entered the great war at the call of humanity for the establishing of a greater brotherhood. Soon after the guns had ceased to roar the hopes of the world peace and brotherhood of man began to fade. What politics had failed to bring about, fraternity and art may accomplish. Just as it is related that in the Civil War at close of day on the eve of a great battle a song of home and friendship started in the lines of the gray, was taken up by those who wore the blue, until both armies were united by the medium of song, so may music play a large part today in establishing that community of interest, that common enjoy-

ment which must precede right relations in our troubled society. The community sing as a peace time recreation agency has a future finer than anything that prevailed during the war because it will touch a happier, saner society with wider and more kindly interests. In town after town, recreation leaders who tentatively and with many misgivings have attempted to revive large community sings in parks and great auditoriums have been surprised at the crowds of people who have assembled and joyfully taken part in the singing.

The community sing may be both an end in itself and a means to something more advanced. There will always be a place for the spontaneous, unrehearsed singing of the mass which comes together with a different membership each time. The man at his work with a song on his lips whom Carlyle apostrophized probably was humming a melody which he had heard a group of people sing joyously and freely in unison. As it comes from his lips it carries off some of the tension of work through the swing of its rhythm, the cheer of its melody, the imaginative touches of its remembered text and the various associations clustering around previous uses of the song. Music is serving as recreation during work much as it did during play time. But these simple songs do not exhaust the recreational resources of music. Just as the poet says "there is a pleasure in the pathless woods," meaning that recreation is as truly to be found in the quiet, untrodden, unusual ways as in those in which the busy throng take their delight, so there is abundant recreation in the finer form of music. For sanity of outlook, for breadth of vision and for height of inspiration, nothing surpasses the singing of great choral masterpieces. More than any other musical expression, a choral society and the support accorded it indicate the culture of the community.

Good Music for Community Singing

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I often wonder what the term "community singing" means to different people; it is evident from books and conversations about community music that there is a wide difference of opinion with regard to its function. Some choruses,—too few, alas,—meet with regularity and aim to attain some marked proficiency; others are mere accidental gatherings of persons assembled for patriotic or celebratory purposes. Community singing serves to open a lecture or to relieve the over-strained eyes and emotions of the movie "fan." It invades the department store and the mining camp and becomes a safety valve for the release of social unrest and economic discontent. Sometimes it is feeble; sometimes it fails, often it sings badly; too often it doesn't sing at all. But whatever its object, or whatever its musical achievement, it invokes our admiration as an outstanding example of American "stick-to-it-iveness"; for like the gambler, who, in the face of almost certain loss will risk one more turn of the wheel, or like the hero who, though he attempt the impossible, will give to the limit of his strength notwithstanding, so the community chorus rises again and again from the ashes of its annual Fourth of July defeat, and is patiently willing to charge once more the impregnable vocal ramparts of the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Now my own conception of the term "community singing" is not any of these I have mentioned. It does not center about any particular type of chorus or conductor; it is almost an abstraction, an ideal, if you like, which I call "the will to sing." And because so much of our community music is incidental to something else or is accomplished with difficulty, I find it increasingly difficult to believe that that "will to sing" plays a great part in community music movements. Singing is such a natural and inevitable act and so necessary to happiness that it is difficult to understand why community choruses should have to be "organized" and bribed to come to rehearsals, and when about to expire be sub-

jected to artificial respiration. The community, if it had "the will to sing" would not wait to be "organized" or herded together on a green, to fumble with its hat while its patriotic songs were performed for it by "the Argentines, the Portuguese and the Greeks," as the popular song has it. The community would sing by itself or in groups when and where it wished, and it would sing to express and interpret its emotions and not to please a conductor or a municipal committee. In many countries of Europe, as you know, music is the popular language of the emotions. A year ago last summer in Venice I was told to be very wary of singing crowds; where there was singing there might be fighting; but it often happened that after three or four turns about the square of St. Marks, the shouting of some political tune set at an outrageously high pitch had so exhausted the crowd that the smashing of heads and windows lost its attractiveness in favor of the more gentle occupation of consuming excellent Italian wine. Singing is a natural emotional vent; loneliness, sadness, gayety, anticipation, weariness, love, hate,—all these the Italian expresses through song. And what does the American do? He *talks* about them, and he doesn't know, alas, that hum-drum everyday speech can never bring him the exaltation or the release that the Italian finds in his spontaneous and heartfelt singing. Americanization? Most certainly. Teach immigrants our laws and customs, but in heaven's name let us not try to Americanize the arts! Let us, rather, learn from the foreigner the value of that "will to sing" which is the basis of every successful community chorus.

But why is that "will" so generally lacking among us? There are many reasons, I believe, of which I would like to mention three.

First, we do not bring up our children to be singers. Forgetting that as a youthful nation we have slight musical heritage, we adopt a program of music education suited to a country where song is an alternative for speech and every home is a miniature community chorus. We try to teach our children to *read music* and we project them

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City October 11, 1922.

at a tender age into a death grip with that monster—the pianoforte, believing that the possession of mechanical facility is the same thing as loving music. How many children emerge from those first years of school and home wearied of the struggle with technique and finally denied the natural privilege of song. Out of three hundred children in a high school near Boston, *not one* elected music as a diploma study. A knowledge of music is not necessarily a love of music, nor will any musical experience relayed through the machinery of any instrument ever replace the singing of beautiful songs as a natural and effective means of creating in children a lasting affection for music. First experience, then technique; first a love for music, then an understanding of it.

Second, we have accepted eagerly clever and attractive substitutes for this "will to sing" and I fear we glory in it. Unlike much of the blind self-praise in which we Americans indulge, our boast that we are a truly efficient nation is not an idle one. During the war we worshipped efficiency; sometimes from afar, it is true, but none the less ardently. One has only to travel abroad to appreciate how smooth is made the everyday path of our lives here. We have harnessed many of the forces of the physical world to do our work for us. This is as it should be, and no one can raise a sane objection to it. But the value of labor and time-saving devices has a limit. For practical purposes, for health, for comfort they are excellent, but taken over into the field of art and used as substitutes for an active personal experience of beauty, they constitute a most dangerous menace to the musical future of our country. I speak, of course, of the player-piano, the phonograph, and lately, the radio-phone. I could say much in abstract praise of these, but we are just now concerned with their effect on the active musical life of the community and upon future communities. It is true from many points of view that we are a nation of lookers-on. We have bowed ourselves down so completely before mechanical perfection that we prefer to avoid games, taking it out by reading the achievements of the athletic great, and in the same way we have given over assembling the family about the piano for community singing in favor of pumping the pianola, grinding the graphophone and tuning up the radio-phone. There is nothing criminal in all this; it does not mark us as a degenerate race: but we who know

the joy of active participation in beauty are saddened by the spectacle of a young and fruitful nation content to take its aesthetic exercise vicariously. For we know from experience that the man who practices it himself gets a hundred times the happiness out of music that he gets from letting someone else do it for him. And we are saddened, to, by a prospect of the future, for out of playing and singing come musical communities, and folk-songs, and composers, and virtuosi and real music-lovers. No, we shall not get far with our music until that music becomes an inner force which can find expression only through ourselves.

And third, and most important, we make use of such a deal of bad and moderately good music. We keep deluding ourselves with the idea that people are content just to sing; and that they will keep right on as long as they can get anything to sing. But they don't, as our own experience proves. During the war we had Liberty Choruses, and Liberty Bond Choruses and Soldier Choruses and we invented all sorts of excuses for singing. But they were largely special, manufactured occasions, good for a limited period and due to expire. And expire they did, at least in my part of the country. And they disappeared, I believe, because you can't keep a community chorus alive on poor and semi-good music any more than you can preserve physical life with food which does not nourish. Of all those special occasions when as a nation, we were asked to sing, I remember best the time all dutiful Americans were to rise at 2:05 p. m.—I think it was, and have one more go at the national anthem. The result reminded us of the story in the *Autocrat* about the man who had a scheme for communicating with Mars by means of getting everyone in the world to shout at the top of his voice at a given signal. But you remember that when the moment arrived, the only sound was a tremendous bellow from a deaf man; everybody else wanted to hear what the great noise would sound like.

Now these choruses of which I have been speaking did a lot of good in various ways, but they hypnotized many optimists into thinking that America had at last embarked on a musical career. We were even told that singing would win the war. But the fact was that a large percentage of the music used was too poor to assure permanence. If community singing was to endure, some other sort of music would have to

be used. And that sort of music was not poor music, nor good music, but the *best* music.

But why the best music? Not, I think, because of any certain moral benefit to be derived from it. Although I believe with all my heart in the power of great music to accomplish many things, I do not believe that Bach is a cure for shop-lifting or that the strains of a Beethoven adagio will stay the pyromaniac's hand. Music is an art, not a policeman, and what music does to us depends upon what impulses are in us for music to set at work. We may not assume that because experts agree that the music of Bach and Beethoven is aesthetically sound that that music will improve the morals of the world. This is demanding of music a function which by its very nature it cannot employ, for its substance is without idea. We may admit, however, that music which is beautiful and great has a better chance of generating good emotions and of stimulating right thinking than music which is merely pretty or primarily physical in its appeal. This is made clear in one illuminating phrase of Bergson, "Good music is good action." That is, the intentions of great music at least are good and if this is true, good music certainly has claim to a place in the community.

But rather do I appeal for the best music on the ground previously mentioned, namely, that by its use alone may community singing become permanent. I think of many great pieces of music as *friends*; they are musical personalities and the longer I know them the more I admire and love them. I am always finding new beauties in them and even if I don't hear them for a long time I can always conjure up their sound, and the recollection of them brings me happiness. I know that they cannot be destroyed because you can't destroy great music. The "Passion according to St. Matthew" was buried for a hundred years or more after Bach's death, but if it had not been discovered for a thousand years more it would still be great, for its sublime and moving eloquence cannot be bounded by time. So-called "popular" or even semi-good music, on the other hand, is like *acquaintances*. It pleases us for a little while and then we tire of it and either we turn to more like it, or we cease to interest ourselves to any extent in music of any kind. I believe that only by cultivating a real love for music whose influence is permanent, shall we keep alive the community's interest in singing.

And who would wish to live his life with ac-

quaintances only? For this is my second ground for urging the use of the best music only; that there is a permanent satisfaction in beautiful music which nothing can replace, as there is a permanent satisfaction in true friends which never exists in mere short-time acquaintances.

I have tried both kinds of music with choruses and I have never known the inferior to succeed or the good to fail. I am thinking just now of the Harvard Glee Club which is in reality a community chorus; the requirements for admission are very low, most of the voices are mediocre and the material consists largely of average easy-going college students. With the adoption of a standard based on the best music only, the club has trebled in size, fines for absence have become unnecessary, and an undivided loyalty has grown up within the membership. Two years ago we made a tour through the west; after the last concert of the trip, the men went down to take the train and I followed some time later. As I drew near the station I heard singing and thought to myself, "Well, the tour is over, the men are physically tired and a little weary of singing so many programs of classical music; I suppose they are having some popular songs for a change." I walked down the stairs and along the platform, and there, under an arc light, stood those men, attentive as at a concert, while on a truck stood one of their number trying to lead them in the singing of a Palestrina motet. Can you not understand that experiences like that make me believe beyond doubting in the power of good music?

Now, finally, we need, I believe, three things. First, we must *love* good music; and by *loving* good music I mean *loving* in the same sense that we love an individual or a cause—personally, devotedly, whole-heartedly, so that its acceptance by everyone is a matter of first importance in our lives. How often when discussing standard with some professional musician I have heard him say, "Oh, of course I love Bach and Palestrina, we musicians—we love them and understand them, but you know the public doesn't like that kind of music and you can't force it on them." And I always want to say to him, "You are lying now; you don't love them; you don't even understand them; for you, they are names in history. If you loved them truly you would never rest night or day until you had brought into the lives of as many people as possible the happiness and the

(Continued on page 498)

Music and Democracy

DR. FRANK CRANE, in the New York Globe *

Music, like all the other arts, has been crippled and confined by snobbishness.

There are very many people in the world interested in music, but most of them are interested in it only as an accomplishment, a means of personal enjoyment, or a fad.

Really, however, music is essential to democracy.

But this does not mean the music of grand operas or of concerts where virtuosi play, or of selections from Chopin performed by young ladies upon pianos.

The music to which public attention should be given is mass music. This means choral music in which the people sing together, or orchestral music in which they play together. If these two forms of musical expression were so widespread as to cover practically the whole population it would be of enormous benefit in unifying the mind of the people, in brightening their lives, and in relieving the whole commonplace of our industrial civilization.

The Master of Balliol declared that the first business of the State is "to develop as widely as possible the practice of choral singing, and whatever facilities allow of *ensemble* playing as well."

Choral singing should occupy the first place in musical education. It can be engaged in at a min-

imum of expense and by the simplest means. The ability to sing in chorus is much more widely extended than is commonly supposed, and choral singing should be thoroughly taught in the school-room.

Some of the advantages of choral singing may be thus listed:

Large numbers can be dealt with efficiently by a single teacher, and the supply of teachers is ample.

The sexes are on terms of equality.

It provides opportunity for social life with a strong and healthy common interest.

It quickens the imagination and promotes every wholesome and refining influence that moves masses of people.

It best meets the demand for comradeship and fellowship.

It promotes the spirit of discipline, organization, and team play.

It is adaptable for rural communities as for cities.

Best of all, it enables the people themselves to create and to take part, instead of merely watching the creations of others.

A person might attend concerts and grand opera till three-score years and ten and not know much about music or get the soul of music in him. But he could not habitually sing in chorus or perform in an orchestra without absorbing a real knowledge of music and being inoculated with its beneficial results.

"A singing nation is a happy nation," and surely the first business of a state is to make its people happy.



The Boys' Band at Elmira, N. Y. has attained the dignity of uniforms. It was organized in June and gave its first public concert in November. On Armistice Day it took part in the parade

* Published by permission of the New York Globe and Associated Newspaper.

To War on Jazz with Better Songs

A counter-revolution against the influence of the cheaper popular songs was started by the recent Recreation Congress in Atlantic City in the form of an appeal to the poets and composers of our country to devote themselves to creating better songs of the people. The keynote of the above call was sounded in a resolution setting up the machinery for starting such a campaign, as follows: "Whereas the National Recreation Congress recognizes the influence of song in the lives of the people and whereas it believes that it is desirable to give a greater stimulus to the creation of a song literature embodying the finer ideals of American life, be it resolved that an appeal be made to the poets and composers of America to the end that they create more songs of the people. Moreover, the National Recreation Congress recommends that a committee be appointed which shall devote itself to the accomplishment of this purpose."

The Committee on Folk Music appointed by the Congress is constituted as follows: Chairman, Professor Peter W. Dykema, University of Wisconsin; C. M. Tremaine, Director of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music; Sigmund Spaeth, formerly music critic of the New York Evening Mail; Mrs. Frederick W. Abbott, managing director of the Philadelphia Music League; Secretary, Kenneth S. Clark of the Bureau of Community Music of Community Service, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

This action had its inception at a meeting of the music section of the Congress at which S. A. Mathiasen, a Community Service worker who spent the past year in study in Denmark, told of the folk movement in that country in which the poets and composers have given themselves to creating simple, melodic songs of the people. The application of this experience to the present condition of the people's music in America was so evident to the meeting that the above resolution was the result.

In making its plea to American poets and composers the committee appeals both to their love of country and to their aspiration to enrich the song literature of the nation. The committee trusts that these creative artists will give themselves to this peace-time cause with the same devotion that was shown in war-time, when, for instance, one famous American composer said:

"If I could write one song that the men would sing in the trenches I would feel that I had done the greatest thing in my life." The committee, therefore, offers no prize as a spur to the creating of these songs. While the authors are to have freedom to arrange for the publishing of the songs as they see fit, the committee will gladly assist them in this matter. It hopes that the songs will be accepted by all types of publishers in order that they may have the advantage of the most progressive exploitation—not only that practiced by the publishers of the high-grade songs but also by the publishers of the popular songs of the day.

Most of all, the committee dedicates itself to seeing that the songs deemed suitable be given a widespread hearing such as may bring to them as universal a popularity as that created for the Broadway song hits. The diversified interests already pledged to this new movement are indicated by the fact that the meeting which brought it forth was representative of the following groups: settlement houses, civic music leagues, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the music publishers, music merchants, talking machine manufacturers, chautauqua bureaus and community organizations. It is expected that all such agencies will lend their aid to the campaign.

Musical conditions which made this campaign necessary were sketched at the Recreation Congress by Professor Dykema as follows: "As to the songs which are being sung generally by our people today, we are living on an unbalanced ration. There is a keen appetite for more songs of permanent value. What better proof of this fact could one ask than the haste with which the public turns quickly from one bad popular song to another in unconscious search for the songs which will lastingly satisfy its musical hunger? The term, popular song, as commonly used signifies not quality but newness. Theodore Thomas said, 'Popular music is familiar music.' As a matter of fact, no popular song of recent years has had a more wide and sustained popularity than *America, the Beautiful* by Katherine Lee Bates. The test of a song's permanent value is that it shall awaken a sincere response in its hearers. Such popular songs as have not met this test are forgotten; those that were worthy in that sense still live richly in the hearts of the people. What we want is more of them.

"We realize that we cannot say to the poets and composers of America, 'Sit down and write

a folk song.' However, if our composers, including those who have written the best of the popular songs, will set before themselves the purpose of writing songs which will be popular not only today but ten years from now, the result may be a new folk song literature for America.

"These compositions need not be patriotic songs; they may express other aspirations of our people. Nor need they be 'high-brow' songs. They must first of all be simple and melodious—songs that the people will love to sing. Besides the patriotic airs let us have songs that express other fine ideals of American life and not merely its loftier moments. Let us have songs in lighter vein—songs of humor, sport, home, love and fellowship.

"This campaign is aimed at both actor and audience, composer and public. We want to lead poets and composers to produce more beautiful songs and the public to appreciate them."

Music Notes for the Local Paper

A prominent music editor has been grieving because Babe Ruth is better known than Beethoven to Americans generally. Of course, he was using Beethoven as symbolic of good music as a whole. None of us who cares for the best music will fail to do everything in his power to make such a love of music more widespread—in other words, to make music a household word. The daily papers are perhaps the strongest medium for such musical dissemination.

Do the newspapers in your city conduct a community music page or column? If not, it may well be the task of a local Community Service music committee or civic music association to persuade such papers to inaugurate a music page and to provide them with material for this department. This has already been done by several Community Service organizations. The Bureau of Community Music has been sending out to the musical workers an informal sheet of current musical gossip, entitled "Musicograms" based upon the intimate contact of the Bureau staff with the national musical leaders and movements. Certain of these workers submitted this material to the local newspapers as the nucleus for a community music page. Such a page was then inaugurated, with the constant cooperation of the local Community Service organization and with

due credit given in the paper for such cooperation.

The material available for such a page consists of the following:

- (a) Musicograms, each installment providing sufficient material for two or three issues of the music page
- (b) Musical News Items, or regular bulletins chronicling musical activities under Community Service throughout the country
- (c) Accounts of local musical happenings, especially in the field of community music
- (d) Free weekly news service of articles on music from National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, 105 West 40th Street, New York City

The advantages of this plan are manifold. For example:

1. It leads the public to "give more thought to music"
2. It provides the local paper with an attractive feature, the material for which is not to be obtained through regular syndicate sources
3. It acquaints the local public with the ideals of Community Service as expressed in its musical program throughout the country
4. It keeps the community posted as to the progress of the local musical campaign

Any Community Service organization may start to carry out this plan right now. Any Community Service group which wishes to be placed on the mailing list for regular receipt of the Musicograms may signify that desire by writing the Bureau of Community Music, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

A Music-less Day.—America is evidently going to be made musical by the negative as well as the positive method. The latter is represented especially by the Music Week. Now comes the city of Portland, Oregon, with a *Music-less Day*. That community has determined to find out whether the absence of music from the city for one day would make the heart of the people fonder of music. The City Counsel set aside November 4th as the period which was to be without music either vocal or instrumental. The idea was nurtured by the Portland Musicians' Club.

Music among Women's Clubs

At the end of a victorious campaign for political decency we nowadays hear the cry: "The women did it!" The women are doing it also in many other fields of civic advancement—for instance, that of music. Before the war, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was devoting but a minor share of its attention to music. In the last four years, however, the organization has been steadily increasing the importance of music in its national program. A systematic form of development has been adopted, beginning with a Music Division in the national organization, which extends its influence through State and District Chairmen of music, until finally contact is made with the music chairman of the individual club. At the recent Biennial Convention of the General Federation in Chautauqua, New York, music was one of the major activities. The following resolutions regarding music were passed by the convention:

"Whereas: *America the Beautiful* is a song of dignity and beauty, easily sung and reflecting the true spirit of America and the ideals of this Federation, therefore be it resolved that this song be adopted as the Official Song of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"Whereas: there has been for many years the need for a truly American plan to promote public interest in the American singer and composer, thus establishing an American School of Opera to produce genuine American opera in our own language; be it resolved that the General Federation of Women's Clubs pledges its interest in furthering the plans of the organizations working toward this end.

"Whereas: it has been proven that the Music Memory Contest is entirely practical and will become the greatest medium to make good music popular in America and if rightly used will open up the greatest opportunity for the American composer, be it resolved that the General Federation of Women's Clubs endorse the Music Memory Contest and support the authorized list of selections issued by our Music Chairman which will contain a large percentage of compositions by American composers."

The Music Division of the General Federation has chosen as its motto, "Let us make good music popular and popular music good." Its slogan is "Hearing America First."

Music as a Spur to Production

"Music speeds work in many big plants!" Such was the headline of a recent article in the *New York Times* which served valiantly to acquaint the public with the growing use of music in industry. First, it appeared in the early edition of the *Times*, which reaches all of that paper's many out-of-town subscribers. Second, an extended comment on the article on the much-read page of "Mephisto" in *Musical America* brought it vividly to the attention of the musical world in particular. The article was based upon replies to an inquiry made by the National Industrial Conference Board among forty industrial plants. The *Times* article in part was as follows:

The idea of associating music with industry began in factories with the gathering of small groups to sing at the noonday lunch period, and has grown into a well-developed movement for organized music in many of the leading industrial establishments of the country.

Organization records of thirteen song leaders in this field during one month last winter show twenty-two male quartets, eighteen glee clubs, eleven choral societies, four bands, and eleven orchestras drawn from employees in office and factory, with some creditable dramatic and operatic performances, concerts and minstrel shows produced. The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has established a special department of industrial music.

Mass singing has been found one of the easiest and most natural channels in turning foreign-born employees toward good citizenship and Americanization. It is being used increasingly by plants having large numbers of foreign-born workers. Schools for song leaders are conducted throughout the United States by Community Service, certain universities, and a few individuals experienced in community and industrial work. Industrial institutions are invited to send representatives to these schools, in some of which tuition is free.

The methods of using music in industrial organizations naturally vary considerably. One large department store has cut twenty-five minutes out of its working day and devotes it to mass singing. The actual increase in sales in remaining time is said to have more than offset the potential loss of sales during the time so used. A Boston factory has made several breaks in the day for

singing, and reports a twenty percent increase in the output by the same force. A factory in Lynn has pianos, purchased by voluntary contributions of employees, in many departments. The pianos are played at will during working hours, with a noticeable freshening of interest and increase of output reported on the part of the workers. A Chicago concern which now has ten minutes of chorus singing at ten a. m. and another ten minutes at three p. m., reports that the former excessive labor turnover and absenteeism practically has ceased. Several Detroit factories are said to have effected a ten percent increase in output by the introduction of music in working hours.

A large packing house gave special attention last year to organization of brass bands, stringed orchestras, glee clubs and community singing groups in the various cities in which are its plants. Participation is wholly voluntary. The company provides instruction, instruments and uniforms and the participants give their time. Of special interest is a girls' band of thirty-five players in the main plant in Chicago. Every member is of foreign parentage, and many speak English with difficulty. None ever played an instrument before, but after three months of training and diligent practice the organization is said to have become quite efficient. Another band of seventy-five pieces belonging to this company is represented as being the best band in Northern Texas. Community singing, started in the general office of this concern, has spread to the plant, and "singing meets" are held twice a week. The songs sung are mainly patriotic in theme, because the company "feels that Americanization is one of the biggest things to be accomplished in the moral and mental development of the foreign-born worker within the company's gates."

A band of about eighty-five pieces was organized twelve years ago by a leading steel concern. It at once became a popular organization. It appears at all functions of employees and gives many free concerts. All expenses are borne by the company. In the same concern a male chorus of 160 voices has completed its second successful season. This is managed entirely by the employees and is self-supporting. Well patronized concerts have been given each season.

A hat factory in Philadelphia has pianos and talking machines scattered through its various departments. Employees are privileged to play on them at will, and they are much used. During the noon hour appropriate dance music is played.

There is also a chorus of sixty voices in this factory. In the winter weekly rehearsals are held. The chorus always sings at special Christmas exercises. In the spring a popular concert is given for the benefit of the hospital or some special charity. A noted blind organist and composer who directs the chorus, has been the factory musician for thirty-eight years.

Scores of large firms are now employing music in industry. As one correspondent of the Board has summed up, from the standpoint of the employer, music is valuable because "it increases production, it enlarges the zone of agreement upon which employer and employee can negotiate, and it cuts down the turnover, while from the viewpoint of the employee," it breaks the monotony of the working day. It gives a social interest and a chance for the expression of individual talent, and it makes for better acquaintance and closer friendship."

A Human Document

Of all the letters which reach national headquarters, none are more interesting than those coming from rural and small communities where a few devoted community leaders—sometimes only one or two—are "bearing the torch."

Two letters received from Coupeville, Washington, a town of about three hundred people, tell an inspiring story of what can be done by volunteer initiative aided by the specialized knowledge of a national group who, through literature and suggestions, can be of definite service to communities across the continent.

Coupeville, Wash.

August 16, 1922

Community Service Inc.

315 Fourth Avenue

New York City

Gentlemen—

Re-reading an old *Etude* a few days ago, I found an article by your Mr. Alexander Stewart, advising the readers to confer with Community Service when they needed help of certain sorts. They were most kind and helped me much, and suggested that I ask you to put me on your mailing list which I hereby do request.

Having just moved to Coupeville, a town of about three hundred people, we find a number of problems. Music is lacking except in church where generally the hymn books place all voices in unison with a cheap chord accompaniment or

the piano. My husband sings very well and has directed choirs quite a lot. (He is a physician.) I've been a piano teacher and professional accompanist for years and have been Director of Music in a State Normal School until I married, but we have four little ones and I'm rusty on the newer ways of building choruses.

It seems as though they have chosen us to make the first move, and I'd so much like to know how other similar communities have solved their problems. Also, they've asked me to take on Music in the Grade and High Schools (they've not done it before) and they *want an orchestra!* And I've told them I don't know a thing about one (excepting Symphony orchestra—by hearing much).

So, please, help me if you can about, A, present day choruses, B, school orchestras, C, Music Memory Contests, D, Christmas caroling, E, Small Village Music Weeks.

Very thankfully yours,
(Signed) Mrs. Louis H. Maxson

Coupeville, Washington
November 8, 1922

Dear Community Service:

I want to express again my gratitude for the help that I receive from Community Service.

Perhaps you'd like a report of some of the things that have grown in Coupeville since I first wrote you last summer.

1. A community chorus meeting weekly. About 35 enrolled. Dr. Maxson leads. I play.

2. High School orchestra—cornet, 2 violins, clarinet, drums, piano. I direct.

3. Music in the grade school and High School. Never had it before. I hadn't taught school music for 16 years (since I resigned from State Normal) but I am doing my best—studying hard to bring methods up to date.

4. There was no choir in Congregational church. There is one of eight voices now.

5. Bought piano for same church.

6. No violin teacher. We insisted on a good one. After weeks of struggle secured one from Seattle, 60 miles away (4½ hours travel each way) to come once a week. Five pupils "dug up" for her to start. More in prospect. Got 3 more in our neighborhood town 12 miles away—more in sight. Everybody cooperated to save time. Principals excuse children in rotation to take lessons at nearby house. Two violins to be loaned by people to pupils who want to play.

7 Dr. Maxson gave a lecture recital, "An evening of songs that tell a story." Benefit (100%) of church piano fund.

8. Coupeville is only town in Island County having school music, and the City Superintendent, County Superintendent, and I are trying to arrange a series of Round Table conferences, and demonstrations of methods, for all the County teachers who are interested in better school music.

9. Am chairman of committee to arrange same thing at Everett for Snohomish and Island County teachers. This is an aftermath of Joint County Institute at a requested Music Section.

10. Girl's Glee Club of 16 voices in High School. Just learning to carry parts.

11. No phonograph to use for music appreciation yet. So we do our own. Every Monday we have special things, and the young folks are developing nicely. Every member of the orchestra has shown us all he can learn about his instrument, and shows all he can on it. The piano teacher gave a program. Dr. Maxson has given several. (You see, I'm awfully lucky to have a *good* singer who loves young folks and is a boy at heart, for my husband. He is the power behind the throne.)

12. We are putting on a pay program on the seventeenth, featuring the violinist and a good soprano, both of Seattle, and I think it will be fair, not good yet, because they are new to the sound of their own voices, but at least, the result of honest work by *everybody* concerned.

Thank you again for all your help, and, too, for your patience in reading this.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Mrs. Louis H. Maxson

Poor Economy

"People are beginning to realize that the play of children is merely part of the machinery and means of developing wholesome, normal adults—in other words, good citizens.

"Surely this is no time to think of curtailing one of the most valuable features of the educational system—the playgrounds.

"The making of good citizens—that is the most important business of this or any other city. Let the axe of political economy fall anywhere else first."

A Workable Plan for Civic Music

There is nothing new about a series of municipal band concerts municipally administered. In fact, that is a customary procedure. Pittsburgh supplies a variant to the usual formula. For several summers its municipal band concerts have been managed by a committee of citizens. This committee is one appointed by the Civic Club of Allegheny County. Not only does the committee pass upon matters of artistic policy; it also handles details of personnel and engagement of musicians. While the city appropriates the money and actually pays the bills, the latter are paid, only after the approval of the committee in the form of its reports.

Other communities in which a group of citizens is concerned to any degree with municipal music may profit by studying the example of Pittsburgh, as it is briefly outlined here. In its functions the Pittsburgh committee corresponds to a municipal recreation commission composed of private citizens

who serve without pay. There is this difference: The recreation commission is appointed by the mayor, whereas the Pittsburgh committee is appointed by the Civic Club, which in turn is authorized to do so by the municipality.

HOW THE PLAN ORIGINATED

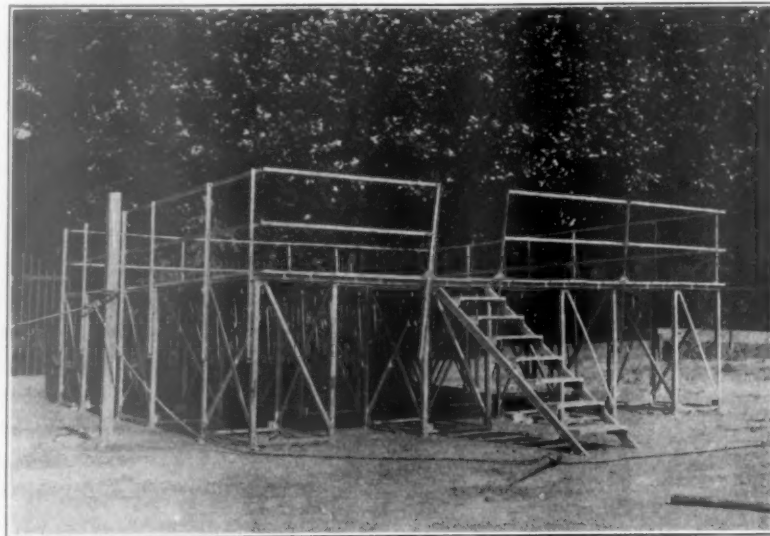
As stated in the committee's recent report, the history of the movement is the following: Six years ago a committee composed of musicians of high standing and of lay members who had actively promoted music interests in Pittsburgh was organized by the Civic Club, following protests from musicians, the public and the press against the kind of music provided by the city for summer concerts. The Civic Club made certain suggestions as to a possible remedy and also

offered to put these into effect. This offer was accepted by the city administration, which gave continued cooperation in the development of the plan.

There had been 19 bands engaged by the city, made up of musicians of varying grades of skill. The committee gradually reduced the number and concentrated upon one band of 30 for the large parks and several bands of 16 men for the small parks. Last year there was a deviation from this plan, with three bands of 30 men for the large parks and the same organizations with a reduced number of men in the small parks. During this past summer there was one large or

municipal band of 30 men and two bands of 16 each one of the latter being a band of colored musicians which gave four concerts in the Hill district.

The Civic Club does not sign the contracts with the bands and the selection of them is made with the sanction of the director of the Department of



Type of band stand used by the Department of Public Works in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Public Works. The committee also requests annually the incorporation of an appropriation for the summer music and it is active at budget-making time in seeing that the full amount is granted. In this work it has always had the hearty support of the members of the Council. The committee accepts the responsibility for seeing that the money is spent economically and efficiently. The Civic Club's own contribution is the following: The personal supervision of the executive and assistant secretary of the club; the services of a stenographer for eight weeks, the postage and stationery, amounting to 750 pieces of mail, also the many telephone messages and the supplying of supervisors' badges. In addition, the organization of

volunteer assistance is a contribution in itself. An itemized report of concerts and expenditures is printed at the end of the year. The Civic Club handles none of the money as the accounts are paid through the City Treasury.

In addition to the concerts managed by the Civic Club, a number were given during the summer under a special appropriation of \$5,000 for the Fourth of July. The figures for the summer are the following:

Total number of concerts arranged by	
Civic Club	60
Total number of concerts arranged by City	34
—	
Total concerts	94

Of the city's band appropriation of \$10,000 for the 1922 season, the disbursements for the bandmen's salaries amounted to \$9760. This left a balance of \$240 on the appropriation. An additional appropriation of \$1000 for miscellaneous expenses was applied to the salaries of the choral leaders and lantern operator, to the purchase of song sheets, placards and slides, and to the erection of the band stand. The entire expenditures in this account were \$1238.40, leaving a deficit of \$238.40. However, the balance from the other appropriation was utilized to apply to this deficit, leaving a total balance of \$1.58.

GRADE OF PROGRAMS RAISED

The standard of music performed has been raised until it challenges comparison with the best bands in any city. For instance, here is a specimen program: *The Star Spangled Banner*; *Motifs from The Nibelungen*, Wagner; *Overture, Il Gaurany*, Gomez; *Fantasy on Tosca*, Puccini; *Spanish Suite, La Feria*, Lacome; community singing; *Concert Waltz, Joyous Life*, Komzak; *Scenes from Andrea Chenier*, Gior-dano; *Finale, Fourth Symphony*, Tschaikovski.

COMMUNITY SINGING A FEATURE

Once in a while a doubt had crept into the minds of some as to the public's desire for community singing, which is a feature of the concerts. The praise given to the choral leaders and the reports of the supervisors indicate, however, that the interest in the singing is greater than ever before.

The program of songs included popular airs, Stephen C. Foster melodies, and folk songs, with a few of the best popular numbers of the season.

For instance, the list of community songs for the first week of the large band comprised *America, Learn to Smile, Carry Me Back to Old Vir-ginny, There's a Long, Long Trail* and *Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean*. One program of songs is chosen for each band to be used throughout an entire week.

Where facilities were existing the words of the songs were projected by stereopticon upon the back of the sounding board of the band stand. In the small parks 16,000 printed programs were distributed and the singing necessarily came early in the program. One choral leader led the singing at all of the large concerts, except one.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION

The record of each concert is kept by a member appointed by the Civic Club. The reports are made up from these records and sent to the Bureau of Parks, to the office of the chief accountant of the Department of Public Works, and finally to the Comptroller's office, where the orders issued are paid.

In the instructions to the supervisors the following statement appears: "Supervisors are urged to be interested in good music and not to permit jazz at any time. Conductors are advised not to play jazz." The report blank which the supervisor fills out includes the following items: "Size of audience—estimate number present. How did the Band play? Which numbers did audience like best? (Judged by applause.) What music was played for encores? Number of men in band (accurate count necessary.) Who conducted and how did he direct? What was appearance of the band? Any change in program and why? How did audience sing? Which songs were sung best? How did the chorus leader direct? Did the leader arouse his audience? Any change in choral program? Were the words distinct on the screen? Did the lantern work all right? (Stand near to the operator so as to insure team work.) Any special features introduced? Was the audience interested and attentive throughout? Was there necessity for interruption owing to noise or commotion in the audience?"

The season's attendance this summer as estimated in the supervisors' reports reached a total of 224,875.

(Continued on page 500)



A Big Day at the Clairton Steel Works of the Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., when the entire plant indulged in a picnic and ball game

The Community: Maker of Men*

JOSEPH LEE

President of the Playground and Recreation Association of America

"To make good, be somebody, hold a place as a competent member of society—this is an achievement which—as the members of this conference know from the daily experience of a thousand cases—is the prime social requisite of health. . . .

"War called out something in us that we did not know was there—that in truth was not there, or at least was not at home to any other visitor. It restored power to the invalid and gave the old a new lease of life. It made the lame to walk, the blind to see, and gave the well an almost miraculous power of performance. . . .

"Here at last was true rest for the weary—not surcease of toil, but the dedicating of your toil to a cause so satisfying that, let time and the Devil to their worst, you could surrender to it with happy recklessness; a cause that you devoutly believed must triumph but a good ship to go down with at the worst. . . .

"People who had never known the happiness of being wanted felt the bracing current of demand. . . .

"There was a city once, which in little more than a century from a body of about 150,000 to 180,000 citizens—approximately equal to the population of Scranton, Pa., or Worcester, Mass.—produced about half the genius that the world has seen. Within its walls, in that brief space of time, there was traced out the nearest approach we have to the spiritual outline of a man. In Athens, not simply more than elsewhere but in many thousand times its due proportion, the human mind and spirit were set free.

"And it was in Athens that man's great constituting purposes—as soldier, thinker, creator of the beautiful—were more devoutly followed by the state than in any other place at any time. So deep was public reverence for these aims that each was worshipped as a god—as Ares, Apollo, Pallas Athene. The stage at Athens was an instrument of public worship. The office of architecture was building the temples of the gods; that of sculpture the construction of their images. The Parthenon was the Athenian Temple of the

Virgin. Praxiteles's Olympian Zeus, the chief of all the gods, was invoked by Hellas as patron of its athletic sports. Athens demonstrated how much of human genius may become incarnate where the public dimension is added to the pursuit of its constituting aims. She so hungered to render these their fitting service that, as in the myth of Orpheus, her very stones rose up and made her beautiful. . . .

"To the objection that such drastic action for human betterment is 'playing at Providence' our answer would be: 'Gentlemen, we are not playing at Providence: we are working at it. We believe that love is as proper an instinct to be obeyed as any other. We believe that service of one's fellow-citizens, deliberately and systematically undertaken and upon the largest possible scale, is as legitimate a form of action, and as much in accordance with the divine will, as eating or doing business or giving smaller and less effective help. Care of our personal or physical needs is never left to Providence. Attention to our public and spiritual interests is equally our business and is not less important.'

"In the carrying out of these and other changes we shall adopt a lesson from the war: not merely in the receiving of ministrations but in the devising and conferring of them we shall leave no one out. This I believe is the most important item in democracy, the common attitude that all are wanted, that no one's contribution is to be despised.

"The community will call on every citizen to serve its purposes because it knows that they are also his. It will call as with a trumpet blast of peace, but it is to the still small voice within—to the great purpose as it is whispered to the man himself—that it will speak. . . .

"We must say to the people of this country: 'We are not putting this service of the fuller life in every citizen before you as a purpose that you may espouse or may reject. It is a purpose not submitted for your choosing: it has already chosen you.' And the choice is for America and for democracy everywhere, a matter most literally of life and death."

* Extracts from address at the National Conference of Social Work at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June, 1921.

It's All a Game

"Scouting is a game," says Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts of England. Perhaps that explains why there are now 400,000 Boy Scouts in America and why during Boys Scout Week February 8-15 they expect to reach the half-million mark.

Scouting takes the fundamental boy instincts which find themselves so often in conflict with and thwarted by civilization and gives them expression. Nearly everyone is familiar with the things Scouts do in the out of doors—their hikes, their camping trips and woodcraft. Less familiar are the many types of service scout troops render in their communities.

Scouts of Arco, Idaho, inaugurated a campaign to beautify the town by planting trees. One hundred silver maples were ordered and sold for what it cost to deliver them—sixty cents apiece. Instructions as to how to plant were distributed.

In Menominee, Michigan, Scouts collected nearly 7000 tussock moth nests from the city shade trees. They cleaned up the tourist camp grounds three times and carried through a broken glass campaign, picking up some 400 pounds of glass from the streets and reported the shooting of song-birds.

In Philipsburg, Pa., a careless fisherman, forgetful of extinguishing his camp fire, caused the first forest fire of the season. The fire was reported by a state trooper; a scout spread the news; twenty-four Philipsburg scouts rushed in autos to the scene and after two hours of intense work in which their fire rakes were of important help, the Scouts extinguished the fire.

Those who travel the roads of Kansas will have their sight gladdened by masses of flowers, planted as memorials to the soldiers who lost their lives in the Spanish-American War. The seeds are being planted by the Scouts of the State who take packages of seeds with them on every hike and sow them as they go. Patrols have been organized to inspect the floral lines and see that the flowers grow.

For fifteen years Memorial Day had passed without observance in a small community of Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Last year a troop was formed, and it followed that Memorial Day was observed with Scouts in almost complete charge. The Scoutmaster made the address at the cemetery, the Scouts decorated the graves and the troop bugles sounded "taps."



Tree Census undertaken by Boy Scouts as a community "Good Turn". Measuring, locating, doctoring trees, reporting those needing further care—these are some of the duties assumed by the Scouts

Here are a few of the many things Boy Scouts did last year to help make their town pleasanter places

Patrolled coasting places and skating rinks to prevent accident

Cleaned vacant lots

Made surveys reporting fire traps, violation of fire laws

Cooperated with Audubon Societies and other bird societies in preserving bird life

Maintained winter feeding stations for birds

Maintained first-aid booths at fairs and big conventions

Acted as patrols at swimming pools and playgrounds

Gave special police service in crowded shopping centers during holidays

Gave health talks in schools

Directed fire drills in schools making themselves responsible for conditions of fire escapes

Distributed government cards of invitation to foreign-born, to naturalization classes

These are only a few examples of the kind of services boys are rendering all over the country as part of the scouting game

The Recreation Worker's Responsibility to His Community*

V. K. BROWN

Superintendent Playgrounds and Sports, South Park Commission, Chicago

I should prefer to talk informally upon this very vital subject, but someone's time, and someone's money, has brought each of us here. And to get most out of that investment, I have written what I feel I must say—what sincerity and candor dictate that I say, if I speak at all. This subject searches one's soul perhaps more intimately than any other before this Conference. It challenges us to render account of our moral and intellectual obligations. It is a subject on which we must feel deeply, and speak truthfully.

There are two chief elements in anyone's responsibility—honest thought, and conscientious action. And as to the first, speaking for myself and some of my intimate associates, I must confess that we are only lately escaping confusion of thought and almost despair of satisfying analysis as to our service and its ultimate values and objectives. We have passed through a nightmare stage of mental-treadmill tendencies, where labored effort got us nowhere—accusing the literature of our profession as partially responsible, in that it is so often emotional, rather than thoughtful,—superficial, rather than analytical. We have felt that it abounds in sonorous statements of untruths and that its extravagant claims are not borne out in actual operation of our recreational service. But harmful as shallow and fallacious philosophies may be, we cannot lay the flattering unction to our souls that our shortcomings can be charged to external and contributory causes.

We have not been guiltless ourselves of contributing to our own intellectual stagnation. As John R. Richards once put it, we have been intent on the *trail* of evolution leading backward to the brute, rather than on the *trend* of evolution forward to the man that is to be. We have ourselves accepted emotion as reasoning, statement as fact, and have cited what in honesty we must admit are exceptional individual cases, as proof of general service to all. I must confess that I have argued that experience in team athletics constitutes training in the restraints and social moral-

ties so requisite to good citizenship—blinking the breakdown of my statements in the case of numerous professional baseball muckers, post graduates of that school of training I was speaking of—and yet the most corrupting examples of rotten sportsmanship and of utter lack of self restraint before the youth of our nation.

I have myself dawdled, and idled, and wasted, sentimentalizing the while, to salve my conscience, and who else of us has not done so? I have busied myself with *events*, while failing of the *service* which was my responsibility, although a moment's thought convinces that events do not necessarily constitute a service. Frankness compels me to admit that sometimes it has seemed that I only survived by grace of an unexacting public, which patiently hoped for the day when I should throw off that paralyzing lethargy, have done with my inefficiencies, cease my gentle dreaming and quit myself like a man.

Haven't we, all of us, talked ourselves into ecstasies over what we termed our social vision, hugging the fond delusion that our eyes only were anointed above those of our fellow men—that to us alone were the Pisgah height, the lofty sentiments, the ideals? And then came the war—and the lean ranks went forth to die for ideals, for nothing but ideals, as the common heritage of all the children of men. Ideals? They have been proved almost universal. We have no monopoly of ideals. Ideals are commonplace. They are struck off in every hovel of the land. Possessing them gives us no patent of title to the world's esteem. When men demand the gold of actual deed, they buy us nothing. There is none so poor to do them reverence. Everyone has ideals, even the cheapest rascal, who still clings to something as his moral standard. His word is still his bond, or his personal life is yet clean, or his charity unstinted. Heaven pity us if ideals be all we have to cash in!

All of this is an indictment of the honesty of our thinking, it is aimed direct at our consciences—mine, and yours. Smug complacency, rapt religious ecstasies and split hair discussions in

* Address given at Recreation Congress, Atlantic City October 12, 1922

the temple before the veil of its inner shrine was rent, availed nothing that afternoon when the cross was being painfully borne to Golgotha. They avail me—and avail you, nothing today, when what most nearly approaching the divine in humanity is marching to its crucifixion. Not our trivialities fix our responsibilities upon us, but rather the ultimate possibilities of that service which we might, but which we fail, to render.

That fact is being borne in upon us all. It is urging us away from soft philosophies and easy conclusions. We are growing to the measure of our tasks, for we have work to be done, work which demands that we be men, not sentimentalists. I must treat this subject in deadly seriousness—and you, my brother, are at my side in that attitude. You would not forgive me, nor could I forgive myself, that extravagant and ill supported assumption which we once indulged in, nor more of our past mushy nonsense about the play spirit, and joyousness as our great objective, and all of that past reasoning—as if real recreation were ever an artificial buoyancy, a pumped-up, gas inflated, toy balloon condition. We have together thought our way past all that, and know full well, now, that real life is intent, intense, prodigal, summoning every resource to throw it into its endeavor with whole-souled abandon, and finding its ultimate joy in doing so. Real life *lives* its activity to its remotest nerve end. It neither wants nor needs our clumsy and affected condescension. It has business of its own, and with the directness and dynamics of nature itself it is on its way. But where we once had faith alone, now we *know* that, laying aside pretense, to apply ourselves more thoughtfully to our vast responsibility, we may, indeed, actually channelize the course of life's great potencies, change the direction of its vast gulf streams and actually direct the trends of evolution. We even have peculiar opportunity to do so, and therein lies our responsibility.

Concretely then, let us think together for a few minutes about our ultimate objectives. We all started with the negative service idea of keeping childhood off the streets and out of bad places—until we discovered that a vacuum is no less abhorrent to God than it is to nature. We thought that buildings and grounds and apparatus—brick and mortar, and open spaces—would solve a human need. Looking over that splendid South Park System of Chicago, which is my field of work, when it was first opened to use, Jacob Riis remarked—"Well, now I'm ready to die!"

But a physical South Park System in every hamlet in our nation rightly would mean only that it was time to begin more intensively to *live*. Material equipment never has solved, it never will solve, a human need. Institutions are not the answer, though they have cornerstones dedicating them to culture of body, intellect or soul. From the individual moron to the League of Nations, all of our problems of self and of society merge into *one*, colossal and alone—the problem not of man's *ignorance*, but of his *weakness*, his lack of practiced strength to *do*, the thing he knows often all too well he ought to do. Our world is not wrong of heart—the war proved that. Neither is it wrong of head, whatever our educators may say to the contrary. These times are out of joint and sick, as every time has been since time began, because, and *only* because, the great imperatives are tables of stone brought down from Sinai, and we have not even yet learned how to make them forces within, governing life and our doings with men.

Listen to William James: "It is not in the moment of their forming, but in the moment of their producing motor effects, that ideals and aspirations communicate the new set to the brain!" That is your scientist repeating Saint James' old truth that faith without works is dead. We speak of the action impulse inhering in stimulation. It only means that when the Maker ran the human race off the assembling platform the motor was left meshed with the transmission. A flash in the cylinder must result in locomotion or in stripped gears and utter inutility—in muscular response to the spark of impulse, or dead incapacity for anything of achievement thereafter. And while the educator, dissatisfied with his product, is groping through Gary systems, Montessori methods, vocational guidance and manual training for the betterment, the motorizing, of his processes—we *have*, by birthright, what he is painfully seeking. We *deal* in motor response to stimulation. And that is our fundamental and infinitely grave responsibility. We have an opportunity which teacher, priest and parent do not possess, to seal control and self restraint down into the very basic fibre of character.

When I consider that responsibility, I must confess that the health objective and the joyousness objective of our service appear to me as secondary and subordinate. Or, thinking in other terms, is Jack Dempsy a better specimen of human health than Thomas Edison, or Charlie Chaplin a better example of human joyousness

than Lloyd George? Isn't health very much—as Coué is thundering across the seas at us—a matter of perfected mastery of all our resources—a mastery which fundamentally means character and soul, going deeper than muscle and organic functioning? And isn't joyousness a matter of more than momentary elation merely? Doesn't it strike deeper than that to the calm consciousness of personal power and the ineffable peace of a sense of great achievement? The outstanding thing which your athlete gets out of his athletic triumphs is not his championships nor his trophies, but the thing which he can never lose nor forget, the knowledge that once, beset by difficulty and enduring hardship, like Sir Galahad, he clashed with obstacles and bore them down, and burst through all, and in his own naked strength came victor. And the great heritage of the war remains, despite back-wash and reaction, the fact that once, triumphing over fear and pettiness, we rose to the occasion and lived supremely for a time, at least, and the memory of those great days will always haunt us.

Thinking our problem through, in this fashion, out in Chicago for a long time we relied on the didactic method of inculcating sportsmanship and self restraint to make our programs a practice school of ethical behavior in crucial moments, in our sports. We sought by exhortation to make our teams be good, in action. But honest thinking brought us the realization that something more practical than preaching was needed. The thing our teams wanted was, and is, success; and moral compunctions may go by the board if the pull of ambition runs counter to their still small voice, and then our activities would become an actual training in quite the opposite thing from what we intended—they would get to be a recurring habit of throwing away all of the player's principles at the critical moment, by dirty tactics, to achieve a tainted victory. The sword was two-edged, and might cut in either direction. Our responsibility, as self-styled experts, was to guarantee that our result was always the right one and never its equally easy opposite.

As a result we decided to make sportsmanship a determining factor in achieving victory. Our sports are now decided by a point score. In every contest winning counts only 30 percent, sportsmanship 50 percent, and what we term reliability—the keeping of contracted appointments promptly, without detracting delay or sluggish performance, counts 20 percent. We *force* every contender, if he desires to win, to achieve

self mastery, control his temper and abstain from trickery or unfair tactics.

After seven years of trial this experiment is giving increasing proof of its success. Our athletes are not straight jacketed, except by their own desire to win. They make their own choice. We merely say to them, "Here, in your moments of stimulation carried into the most intense action, which is the very essence of all true education, if you achieve at all you must achieve your victories by self control, in a moral no less than in a physical sense, as you must do in all real living." And speaking as a critical observer, I want to assure you that this method has revolutionized conduct among our athletes and has proved how far from the truth were our former easy conclusions that athletics, *per se*, were yielding the results we sought.

Analyzing further, we were forced to admit that the better our standards became in competitive performance, the more certain we were to defeat our own major service purpose. We could claim no great service in lending encouragement only to the rugged, who promise to fight their way successfully through life without us; until our system affords recognition to the frail, timid and unhelpful it is merely an instrument of driving home to them the bitter lesson that life holds nothing better in store than defeat, and that all of their effort is doomed.

We were impelled by this thought to make our processes conform. Our point system was amplified still further. Although a loser does not get credit for victory, he does score his effort and his sportsmanship conduct. So we laid out a year's program, accumulating each institution's total score in *all* activities, and making the units fight it out for an annual supremacy, with a score representing total community effort. The successful athlete thereby is enlisted in encouraging the beginner and the less adept to add what they can to the aggregate, and by incorporating handicraft events appealing to the creative interest, artistic events appealing to the aesthetic interest and certain mental-contest events appealing to the purely intellectual interest, each may find his opportunity for personal achievement equally recognized and dignified, to hold his head up as a joint contributor to the total community score and to take personal pride in the thing which *he* has done.

This may not be the final system—others are working on other lines. But the significant fact is this—that there is growing evidence of a

studious attitude toward our professional responsibilities. This congress, I believe, has brought together a more thoughtful group than any of its predecessors. The recreation worker is not any longer, if he ever was, a sentimental theorist nor a long haired reformer of the much cartooned type.

As to the other element in our responsibility, that of conscientious action, I wish to mention only one thing. Great danger surrounds the professional worker in recreation. In almost any other work he is surrounded by keenly alive, alert and stimulating influences, emanating from a vital organization hitting on every cylinder. The influences surrounding him in recreation work emanate from a relaxed public coming to him in hours of relaxation, in mental and spiritual negligence. Forced to adapt to the spirit of the occasion unless he is of unusually dynamic personality he is in danger of becoming, at the peak load of his responsibility, a man of off-duty attitudes, of irresponsible habits. Recreation executives are keenly aware of this danger and the constant urge in administrative policy is toward a tightening of requirements. In other work the theory that throwing a person out to sink or swim and forcing him to develop his abilities to their maximum, may work out successfully. In recreation there is a very discernible trend toward definite requirements and administrative pressures to counteract the psychic depressions inherent in the local field worker's position.

We have our responsibilities—grave, and very urgent. But our faces are toward them, and our eyes are open.

The hours are unforgiving, but we have set ourselves to make our consciences balance with our ideals, and our accomplishment square with our great opportunity. And doing so, our faith is that we shall serve our day as a column marching to the relief of a beleaguered city, with bugles trumpeting cheer across the morning, and bearing banners yellow, glorious, golden, against the dawn.

"Life itself achieves significance and value not from the esoteric things shared by the few, but from the great common experiences of the race—from the issues of birth and death, of affection satisfied and affection frustrated, from those chances and hazards of daily living that come to all men."

MARY E. RICHMOND

Why All Our Ecstasy and Silliness by Proxy?

I am never going to see Pavlowa again, and I am never going to see Charlie Chaplin again. It is silly to go and see them do things that I can do perfectly well myself. I don't mean that I can dance as well as Pavlowa or walk as funny as Charlie Chaplin, but I can dance some and I can walk pretty funny when I try.

This thing of walking along normally and regularly is all wrong.

I sing in my bath, I sing with my whole heart, loud and vulgar though it may be, and I'll tell the world it is a lot of fun. I'm going to have more of this sort of fun. Beginning tomorrow at sunrise, I am going to start a new life. I'm going to skip to the 8:40 train. And if I feel like walking funny for a block or two, I'm going to walk just as funny as I feel.

Last night, I saw the Pavlowa ballet, and it occurred to me that everybody ought to live that way. There ought to be more dancing around in First National Banks, in department stores, on subway platforms, on Fifth Avenue, everywhere. Walking is so dog-goned common, and almost sad, when you come to think of it. All of us feel ecstatic now and then. Well, when we feel ecstatic, why shouldn't we hop along like Pavlowa for a block or so? And, although it may be heresy to say so, all of us feel funny now and then, and, when we do, why shouldn't we act as silly as Charlie Chaplin?

Not that it makes any difference, but it will be a better world when we all do.

I know for myself that I never feel quite so close to the eternal as when I get down on my knees and stick my head under the davenport and act like an ostrich for the benefit of the two youngest children.

Everybody has it in him, or he would not pack theatres to see Pavlowa and Charlie do it for him.

You just watch the human race and in another thousand years or so, it will be cutting its own capers. Life isn't going to be so bad after all, in another million years, when we have all learned how to cut loose.

Tomorrow, I start this new era.

Of course, I shall try to be harmless in my self-expression. I don't want people to say anything worse about me than: "Oh, well, he's harmless."

Parks and Playgrounds

Their Requirements and Distribution as Elements in the City Plan

II

HENRY V. HUBBARD

Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University, Member of firm of Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, Mass.

RELATION OF STREET SYSTEM AND RECREATION AREAS

On the relation of the smaller recreation units to the street system there is not much to be said which can be generally applied. The little children's playground (up to five years), the playgrounds for boys and girls (up to twelve years), do not require an area greater than one average block; and, therefore, even in ideal schemes, they would not usually call for any special arrangement of the street system as far as their size goes. As to their location,—in disposing them conveniently in the various residential districts and so as to require a minimum of crossing of dangerous traffic by those who come to them, they would normally be placed on the city plan in relation to a street and transportation system primarily determined by other considerations.

The little squares, breathing spaces, resting places, are likewise fitted into an existing street scheme. In fact, they usually arise through the utilization of odd corners produced by peculiarities in the street system.

The larger "intown" parks, public gardens, and so on, are in a different category. They should be conveniently approached by those seeking them for recreation—mostly pedestrians—and they should be, so to speak, conveniently avoided by the business and commercial wheeled traffic to which they are a detriment if it must go around them, and which is to them a very great detriment if it goes through them. Plainly, in the ideal case the solution is such a zoning plan for the whole community that it will be possible to put these "intown" parks in close relation to the densely populated residential district without thereby locating them athwart any important lines of business traffic.

The same general considerations in regard to their relation to the street system apply to the larger and more outlying parks, playfields, and reservations, but these recreation areas are so large that they can seldom be maintained intact

without being traversed by streets. If they are skillfully designed, their separate units can be efficient and their general effect of extent can be largely preserved, even though they are thus cut across by certain traffic lines.

Principles Modified by the Automobile

In the relation of pleasure traffic to parks the modern development of the automobile has made a notable difference since Central and Prospect and Franklin Parks were designed. Formerly when the old family horse and the carryall, or the livery stable horse and the rig with a seat for two, were taken out on Sunday afternoon, the out-of-town park was about the limit of the journey, and after a circuit of the park it was time to return. The parks were designed with this use in mind. The park roads were comparatively narrow and crooked, and they could run near to sequestered places without much disturbing them. Except on holidays, they could be crossed by foot passengers with little danger and little hurry and annoyance. They could lead to and past especially excellent views seen through narrow openings in screens of foliage, intimate and small scale views as well as distant prospects.

The automobile has changed all this. The park is now seldom the goal of an automobile journey. You are at the park almost as soon as you have started from home, and, were you to drive through it, the circuit of the park would require only a few minutes. But the whole open country-side is now within your reach. The present-day park should, therefore, be designed not primarily for the automobilist, but rather for the pedestrian who has no other resource, though the automobilist may well be allowed glimpses into the park as he rides by. If motor roads are allowed in the park, however, they should be designed for pleasurable motor traffic. Greater width and wider curves and the necessity for avoiding all blind corners make the automobile road, in its appearance and its use,

destructive of natural beauty. The tooting of horns and the grinding of gears are also destructive of country quiet, though proper design of gradients and road intersections will minimize this nuisance. Before we put the auto road into the park, we should remember also that the smaller and more intimate scenes cannot be enjoyed from an automobile. You are whisked by before you can grasp them. The more striking effects, the wider and more distant views, only remain really to be enjoyed, and they can be found often about as well in the open countryside as in the park. In the countryside the interesting views are more diluted, so to speak, that is, there are more uninteresting stretches between them, but this does not matter to the automobilist, while for the pedestrian the good views must be concentrated, as they can be in the park.

The automobile, then, should not carry people *through* the park, except where this is unavoidable or when it can be done, on account of the size or topography of the park, with little interference with its primary function.

The auto should carry people *by* the park—under the same restrictions—and this is possible and desirable.

It should carry people *to* the park, and more especially to and usually through the outlying reservations, and proper provision of parking spaces where cars may be left while their owners enjoy the scenery on foot is a part of the design of all large modern parks.

The motor bus, huge and clumsy as it is, may be admitted on most automobile park roads, for it is often the only way by which some people, especially visiting organizations, can see the parks. But it should be restricted to certain roads only, and often may be allowed on certain days only.

Both for the auto and for the street car the parkway or boulevard is the designated and proper route from the heart of the business and residential districts to the parks and to the open countryside. And naturally the parks should lie on the boulevards—or the boulevards lead past the parks, whichever way you please to put it—on the way to the farther outlying open country.

RELATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TO PARKS

The street railroad is at the same time the friend and the enemy of the park. It is the cheapest and often the only reasonable means by which the great bulk of the city dwellers can

reach the park. On the other hand, its appearance, its noise and the stiff rigidity of the rails are destructive as far as their influence extends, of the very restfulness in the park which they have brought out the city dwellers to seek. This means of course that the street car lines must run *to* the parks for the sake of the parks, that they must run *by* the parks, both for the sake of carrying people into the open country beyond and in their general function of linking up all parts of the city. But the car lines should not run through the park except where the separate park units can be so designed and the car lines so secluded that the park is still capable of fulfilling the essential function for which it was set apart.

The railroad is on the whole the enemy and not the friend of the park in its immediate relations. There are plenty of instances of course, in the cases of the larger parks and particularly seashore or mountain reservations, where the majority of the people enjoying these recreation facilities come by railroad. But the railroad almost always exists primarily for other purposes, of state or nationwide scope and its location has to be determined primarily by these purposes and by topographic considerations. About all that can be said then in this regard is that the railroads can hardly be expected as a rule to modify their lines much for the sake of local parks, and that therefore the local parks must be located and designed so as to get as much good and as little harm from the railroads as possible.

Water Transportation

Transportation by water, however, is a friendly thing to parks in almost every way. The river or pond or the ocean is a pleasant and restful thing to look at and the city which is blessed with the possibility of access to water will certainly go out of its way to locate parks upon it. Traffic over it is restful as well as interesting to watch from the park, and views across it give an effect of expanse, like views from hilltops, without the necessity of controlling a large area of land.

Aerial Transportation

Aerial transportation is likely in the future to bear a close relation to our parks. There is as yet no particular sign that heavy freight will be carried by airplane in the near future. This traffic will be to a great extent purely pleasure traffic and the rest of the swift traffic for business will have a large element of pleasure in it

particularly as we get used to this means of transportation and as the danger becomes less. The requirement of a large landing and starting field can only be economically met at some point at a considerable distance out from the center of the city. It might well be adjacent to a park or at least linked to other pleasure transportation and to the heart of the city by being situated on the parkway and boulevard system. It is not desirable to use a large open lawn in a park as a landing field and to expect it to retain its essential function as a part of a park. However interesting it may be to watch the arrival and departure of airplanes, it can hardly be considered restful, nor as yet even safe, and the necessary hangars and other provisions for the airplane traffic would be largely destructive of the effect of any naturalistic landscape unit.

RELATION OF SCHOOLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY BUILDINGS TO RECREATION AREAS

There has been from the beginning a very close relation between playground activities and school activities in the city. There is no clean-cut line to be drawn, at least in the case of children, between recreation and education, and facilities for the one often serve the other also. It is not the purpose of this paper to consider where authority should lie, or how cooperation may best be brought about, between the school committee, the park commission, and the playground administration, or whatever designations may be used for the managements of these three city functions. It is enough to say here what we all know, that the playground should serve the children of the school at recess, that the school building can provide certain facilities for the playground, and the considerations of relation to residential areas which motive the location of the different types of schools would motive the location of playgrounds of corresponding types, and that on this account also the school and the playground might well be contiguous.

The Community Center

Recently a more highly developed unit has proved its great worth in some cities, namely the community center, which includes both the school and the playground and something else. Quoting from a publication of the People's Institute of New York, "A community center is any place where neighbors or people with common interest meet in order to be better neighbors and to make their common interest more effective. A community center is not primarily a building or set

of activities, but rather an organizing center for the life of a neighborhood or a community."

For the meeting place of the voters' league, for public lectures, for the branch public library, public art exhibitions, musical entertainments, festivals—all these things—the location in relation to the community that they serve might well be the same as that of the school and of the playground. And the facilities of the school and the playground can be used more intensively by being put at the disposal of the community in these additional ways and thus through more hours of the day. The bearing of all this on our present subject is of course that in considering the location size and shape of playgrounds these cooperative uses, not all strictly recreational, must also be taken into account.

The location of the school and its playground near a large park is almost always a mistake for two reasons. First, the school and playground are at their maximum efficiency when the whole area within their effective radius is residential. A school and playground placed next to any kind of large park plainly have their effective area diminished by about one-half. Second, the playground is a noisy place, and should be so all day, if working to its best advantage. And landscape parks are properly restful places, not helped by noisy neighbors. Some parks have parts which are not restful, such as general assembly places, and a playground next to such a place would do no great harm. But a playground is *not* a park, and no part of an existing park should be set aside for a playground—or *run* as a playground without any specific setting aside—without a fair facing of the fact that thereby the area and efficiency of the park as a park are by just so much diminished.

As to the placing of buildings like libraries, court houses, city halls, museums, and so on in public parks, to say nothing of less useful and less public buildings, the defender of park values often wishes that he could paraphrase the famous chapter on snakes in the history of Ireland, and say—there are *no* buildings in parks! I assume that I need not elaborate for this company the fact that a park is not a piece of waste land—a sort of municipal backyard which is improved by any reputable use made of it,—but on the contrary an essential part in the city's possessions designed for its definite purpose, and not to be intruded upon by facilities for other purposes, no matter how important these may be in themselves. When we say "parks" in this connection,

we mean parks properly so-called. We are not protesting against monumental and architectural squares and plazas, nor do we object to the city hall standing in "city hall park", if in reality the area is and should be merely an ample setting for a public building.

INTER-RELATION OF RECREATION UNITS

In a "park system" each of the different kinds of recreation ground has its own appearance as it has its own use. The playgrounds are designed primarily for their use, although they should have as much beauty as possible. They are small and often repeated, perhaps with little difference from one to another or even from those in one city to those in another. The "in-town" park is almost always a constructed and man-made thing, being a part of the town. It is designed for its appearance and should have individuality in this appearance. If there is but one interior park, called perhaps the "public garden" or the "central park" of the town, it ought somehow to reflect the spirit of the town. Often the public buildings may face upon it, and it becomes the open element of the "civic center"—in the architectural sense.

Making the Most of Natural Beauty

The large landscape park should not look man-made, being a part of the country brought near to the town. Its spirit—what it has to give to the visitor—depends largely on the type of its scenery, and on the kind and condition of its foliage. A large park without foliage, or without natural landscape beauty, would not be, to our minds, a park at all. It is the enjoyment of this beauty which constitutes its primary use. A good park designer then, would sensitively appreciate what the natural spirit and expression of an existing area is, or what it could be brought to or restored to if the city had already devastated it with dumps and fires. He would plan to make the most of that particular expression, so that the park should be a notable example of that kind of local scenery. But in another park he would hope for another kind of scenery, and he would approach his choice of available park sites,—hilltop, woodland, or waterside,—with that consideration in mind. Again he must fit either his scenery to the use of the park, or the use to the scenery. You cannot maintain a hemlock grove on a slope where there are constant crowds, while a maple grove on a flat might succeed under the same amount of trampling.

In the aggregate *all* the necessary uses must be provided for. It is not enough that a city has a large amount of land in parks. The parks must provide recreation for the active and the slow, the young and the old, men and women, the chattering family picnic and the ruminative solitary walker. But these uses, though all *park* uses, cannot all go on in the same park, or at least not in the same unified part of the park. And the pleasure of quietude and of the contemplation of natural scenery are the values which must be most carefully planned for and defended, for they are the most easily destroyed by the intrusion or proximity of other park uses. There is no gain in running automobile roads through the wild park to "open up" its beauties, nor in constructing a zoo or an amusement park near it "to bring people to the park" if thereby the very beauties are destroyed which it is sought to exploit. That is, just as you must segregate recreation from business and other such activities, that the recreation may be effective, so you must segregate some kinds of recreation from others, lest one make the other impossible.

In a general way the more "humanized" park uses are provided for in the most accessible places, usually nearer the heart of the town, and the parks become more natural as they lie farther out, until in the landscape reservation every man-made thing must prove its value before it is admitted at all.

The Boulevard for Recreative Purposes

A person going to a park wants to be relieved of the oppression of the city as soon as possible, and he wants to get home again without losing all the benefit of his outing by a long journey through the city which he went out to escape. This is the prime reason for the radial parkway or boulevard. A person riding for pleasure would much prefer to get from one pleasant park to another by a pleasant way, and if this way made a circuit of sufficient size his needs would be satisfied. This was the public desire that made the circumferential boulevard connecting the parks. And such a circuit offers its whole extent without repetition to anyone starting anywhere on its length. The boulevard also serves the pedestrian as a sort of local park of unlimited extent. It raises the value of abutting property, and, under proper restrictions, tends to direct and stabilize the residential growth of the city. Also, if well designed, it tends to segregate the swift pleasure traffic from the commercial traffic, to the good of both.

Surfacing

TENNIS COURTS

Mr. C. E. Brewer, Commissioner of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan, has supplied information regarding the surfacing for tennis courts which is proving successful in that city. The courts cost approximately \$750, the prices necessarily fluctuating with the local wage scale and the freight charges on asphalt. The courts are permanent, lasting from twelve to fifteen years without any great amount of repair. The surfacing is prepared as follows:

The ground is excavated to a depth of six inches and agricultural drain tile is laid. Next, six inches of crushed limestone or granite are applied. This gravel should pass through a two inch screen; the coarser material on the bottom with the finer, the last two inches. This is well rolled down and brought to a grade parallel with the finished grade. On top of this, there is then placed two inches of Kentucky Rock Asphalt, which can be purchased from the Kentucky Rock Asphalt Company of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

This rock asphalt is applied without heating, raked and smoothed with a straight-edge to grade. It should be given a light rolling, and if no depressions occur after that, the low spots should be re-raked and brought to grade. After the light rolling, a light dusting of white portland cement is given which must be allowed to set for two weeks before the court can be used.

PLAYGROUNDS

The new type of playground surfacing which is being tried out on one of the playgrounds in Detroit is still in the experimental stage. "It has not been down a sufficient length of time," writes Mr. Brewer, "to determine whether this kind of surfacing will stand the wear and tear of hundreds of active feet. There is no question that calcium chloride will keep the dust down." The cost of surfacing on the playground was approximately forty to forty-five cents a square yard with one or two cents a year maintenance. The surfacing is prepared as follows:

All grass, weeds, stones, humus material, or other debris are removed and a fill of clean cinders is put in. The cinders, which should not exceed two inches in diameter, are spread to a depth of three inches, wet, and rolled with a suitable roller until no waves appear in front of the roller. The finished grade of this course shall

parallel the finished grade of the finished course. This course ought to be wet before the second course is applied.

The second course should consist of three inches of limestone screenings and dust spread evenly over the first course, rolled with a suitable roller, and wet between the rollings until a smooth compact surface is obtained.

The third course should consist of one-eighth of an inch of coarse, sharp sand, spread evenly over the entire surface. As a fourth course, calcium chloride is spread evenly over the entire surface, about one and a half pounds per square yard.*

*Mr. Brewer will be glad to answer questions regarding this surfacing.

Storytelling in Elmira New York

FLORENCE C. DAVIS

Assistant Playground Director
Elmira, New York

One of the features of the playground activities held in Elmira, New York, in October, 1922, under the supervision of Community Service, was a storytelling festival. Hundreds of children from the various playgrounds, dressed as story book characters, marched through the streets to the park where the festival was held. Each playground carried its own banner to distinguish it from the others. Each sign was the work of some child and was original in designing. A prize was given for the banner showing the best workmanship.

Cinderella in her fairy coach headed the procession, followed by well known Mother Goose characters, Miss Muffet, Jack and Jill, Bo-Peep, Little Boy Blue, Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, Fairies, Elves, the Old Woman in the Shoe, and many others.

Arriving at the Park a pageant, *The Dearest Wish*, by Pauline Oak, was presented by a cast representing all the playgrounds. The spot chosen for the stage setting with its many trees and shrubbery afforded an ideal background for the Queen's throne decorated with gay flowers. The story of the pageant was all that child or grown-up could desire to see, portraying as it did life among the little folks and their fairy friends.

(Continued on page 497)

Story Hour in Aberdeen

Just where the line of bungalow-builders separates that particular type of home from the homes of the lumber barons, there is a park—the Eighth Street Park—triangular, the center of three converging streets. There are many children in the neighborhood. A sophomore at Vas-sar whose home is in Aberdeen, volunteered to undertake a story hour for the summer months. This college girl enlisted the aid of fifteen other young women in town to serve with her on the storytelling committee. The Eighth Street Park district was finally decided upon as the most promising spot to inaugurate a story hour. Wednesday afternoon at two was voted the best time. The local newspaper gave its "Missouri" support and the telephone did the rest in advertising the activity.

The plan of attack was as follows: The fifteen girls turned out, each one prepared to read and tell stories. The chairman simply stood on the grounds and as the children came, separated and sent them to the various age groups, and directed the whole so that each storyteller had seven or eight children. This, because the local director of Community Service, Mr. J. P. Hoffberger, believed that one storyteller could handle a few children more successfully than many. "Besides," he said, "the children learn to respect and cherish their storytellers more if the contacts are more intimate. It gives the children the feeling that the story is being told to each one rather than to the whole bunch." Stories continued for forty-five minutes. Then came the games.

With the help of the local director and the chairman the girls all became theoretically familiar with the various age games three days before the inauguration of this first story hour. After the storytelling period the local director started each age group off on the games and the storytellers continued them. It seemed that snake leap frog was the most hilarious game of the hour. The second week the director simply met with the leaders and helped to map out a program but on the day for the story hour they pursued their own course.

During the third week, at the regular committee meeting on Monday, a lady active in civic affairs who lives on the South Side of Aberdeen, was invited to attend. The South Side is the section of this city where most of the foreign

speaking people live. After discussing the possibility of having a story hour for the children there this woman was appointed a member of the storytelling committee and chairman of the activities in her section. All of the land, even the school ground, is tide flats and after a process of elimination only one place remained which was suitable for the purpose of the committee. It was a beautiful, well-kept lawn of a private residence. The use of this lawn was gladly given by its owner. Responsibility for any damage which might be done to the shrubbery was, of course, assumed by the Committee. After two weeks of story hour on their lawn this family found that these "foreign" children were nice enough to make fudge for, and each week after that there was either candy or cookies for the fifty or more youngsters who came to story hour here. The storytellers who were on the job at the South Side Storytelling Station were recruited by the South Side leader from among the folks who lived in that section. The local Community Service director did not permit any of the storytellers from the Eighth Street district to go to the South Side—but this is another story.

Meanwhile the first story hour continued.

Four weeks after the first storytelling station was opened another in the West End and another on the North Side was opened. Thus there were four stations in four sections of the city, all running at the same time, on the same day, and each one had stories first and then games.

In order to spread the interest in the hour through the entire week the committee was able to find a young girl who went about to the various stations showing the children how to make scrap books out of magazines and colored pictures. A day was set to hand them in and a Committee from the Rotary Club acted as judges to determine which was the best. Those who were inclined to do needlework were urged to start and finish a piece of their handiwork by a certain date. The children of foreign parentage, especially Swedish, were the cleverest with the needle.

As a climax and period to the summer activity of the story hour a pet show was held. Here pollywogs, canaries with daisy bedecked cages, dogs and animals of all kinds reigned. Besides, for the cutest, the homeliest, the smallest, the prettiest, a special prize was awarded by the judges. A girl with a black hen which "showed acrobatic tendencies" came off with flying colors.

Stories through the Year

The following yearly program has been suggested by one of the Community Service recreation specialists for a Storytelling League:

July: A Storytelling Festival, from 7 to 8 in the evening, the storytellers costumed as Mother Goose, Black Mammy, as Hindu, Japanese, Indian, Gypsy characters according to the type of story which is to be told, simple games and one story to be played in each group

August: A Flower Festival, the storytellers costumed as either gardeners with wide hats or bonnets, aprons or overalls, or as flowers with possibly a covering for the head and the chosen flower pinned on the dress. Stories to be told about various flowers.

September: Bird Day, with simple games, songs and stories about birds. No costumes are used but each storyteller brings an exhibit of a bird's nest, a bird-house or a bird in a cage. Eggs may also be exhibited but care should be taken to stress the harm in robbing birds' nests.

October: Animal stories with exhibition of pets of various kinds. This is usually the last day out of doors.

November: Thanksgiving Festival, the storytellers dressed in costumes of the Pilgrims. Songs, games and stories of the season.

December: Christmas. Stories of the season and simple games to be played. Carols to be stressed and one to be learned by the children.

January: Library Day. Stories told from library books in order to interest the children in reading them. The storytellers may be dressed in costumes to represent characters in these books, and the occasion may be held in the library.

February: Poets' Day. Poems by Eugene Field, J. W. Riley and R. L. Stevenson may be read, their verses set to music sung and some of the poems pantomimed or acted out.

March: Famous Children in Fiction. Children of Dickens, Mark Twain, Mrs. Burnett, Kingsley and other writers told about. Costumes of the favorite characters may be used.

April: Tree Day. Stories, games and songs appropriate to Arbor Day, or something of the lore, tradition and poetry of trees may be used. There may be exhibits of leaves, buds, branches and bark. Easter may be celebrated instead with stories of this season, or both days be observed.

May: Spring festival. There may be a May

Pole, songs, games and a May Day procession with garlands, flowers, and green branches. This is usually the first outdoor gathering and made much of. Costumes may range through all the flowers to those of fairies, shepherdesses, flower girls and May Queens.

June: General Children's Day. Mothers are special guests and share in the features. Mothers' Day and Children's Day may be combined and stories and songs about mothers and children used.

A Rural Institute

The training of leadership for rural districts is perhaps the most urgent problem confronting workers in the rural field. Through the instrumentality of Brattleboro (Vermont) Community Service, an encouraging beginning along this line has been made.

Early in November a two-day Institute was held at Brattleboro with an attendance of one hundred fifty people. Sixteen rural communities were represented by 105 delegates. Song leading, music, games, social recreation, pageantry, winter carnival and sports, and a program for holiday and special day celebrations were among the topics discussed.

Everyone wanted a share in making the Institute a success. The Red Cross provided homes for the delegates. The Farm Bureau and the Mutual Aid (a nursing organization) served as publicity agents for the Institute. The Superintendents of schools in four rural districts closed their schools and sent their teachers. The churches closed their prayer meeting on Friday evening and the selectmen gave the use of their hall. Both theatres co-operated, one by inviting the delegates to a performance, the other by giving the use of their building and showing special recreation films. One of the ministers played the piano for games. The business school sent stenographers to record all the discussions.

Were the results worth while? "These sixteen communities," writes an enthusiastic delegate, "will no longer feel that they are isolated and working alone." Already arrangements have been made for group visiting on community nights and for an exchange between the communities of programs, talent, and plays. There is to be a Talent Bureau—a monthly column in the paper, telling of the work in each community.

Our Children*

ANGELO PATRI

A PLACE FOR THE CHILDREN

The suburban town was planned by a mathematician. The plots were carefully lined out, so much for the house, so much for the lawn, a socket for the clothes dryer, a service walk, and a wider one for the main entrance.

When the children came there was no place for them. They really could not be permitted to play on the costly lawn, the streets were dangerous. What then?

"I have all I can do with my own. I simply cannot have all the neighbor's, too. Besides that, they wouldn't leave a blade of grass on the place. And the noise and the mess. Each family will have to play by itself."

So said the mothers, but the children refused to ratify any such agreement. They walked across the lawn and played where they wished, and neighbor complained to neighbor and each blamed the other's flock for the unusual things that happened.

When the group dug up Mrs. Sanford's tulips and sliced them for onions and sat in Mrs. Cole's treasured boxwood hedge to enjoy the banquet, the smouldering fires broke loose. Something had to be done with those awful children.

The men, hectored by their wives, held a meeting and decided that the only thing to do was to set aside a street at certain hours of the day.

Exclude the traffic and let the children play.

What street should it be? Everybody in town had the best of reasons why it should not be the one he lived on. Nobody wanted to live on the play street.

At last the street was selected. The man who had the biggest place on it was wild with anger. He exhausted every means in his power to prevent the closing of the street. When he failed in that he stretched barbed wire through his hedge and kept a loud-voiced dog inside it to keep the children as far away as possible.

He kept on talking and working against the closed street. He did everything he could to annoy the children. At last he succeeded. The street was opened and the children were cast on the cold world once more. The big landowner, however, was happy. His hedge and his lawn and his quiet had been preserved.

Now it may all be as you say. The man had a right to his hedge and his lawn and his quiet, but had the children no rights at all? Why are towns and houses and social organization itself constructed without regard for the children?

After all, you know the children are the reason for the houses and the towns and the social structure itself. Perhaps sometime there will be built the sort of town that understands this. It probably will be worth living in. The usual smug suburb isn't.

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The Coordination of Recreational and Health Activities

THADDEUS SLESYNSKI, DIRECTOR.

Holstein Park Recreation Center,
Chicago, Illinois.

In his recent book, *The Play Movement*, Dr. Clarence Rainwater states that, "The necessity for greater attention to the physical development of the people as disclosed by the high percentage of rejections for physical unfitness by draft boards", was one of the factors which emphasized the need for a wider community service program in our recreation centers and playgrounds. This necessity for greater attention to physical fitness has been further emphasized by investigations in many communities of the country. These have invariably disclosed the fact that physical defects and undernourishment among school children exist in about the same percentage ($33\frac{1}{3}$) as was found among the drafted young men.

RAISING HEALTH STANDARDS ON THE PLAYGROUND

During the past three years several national and numerous state and local organizations have undertaken to raise the health standard of these school children. The experience of these organizations indicates that there should be adjustments made in the programs of schools, recreation centers, playgrounds, summer camps, and other agencies dealing with groups of children. The activities that are being conducted to further this end differ in certain details, in emphasis, and in methods of procedure. They all, however, include weighing and measuring, instruction in health habits, through dramatics, songs and games, nutrition classes, and through physical examinations.

MODERN HEALTH CRUSADE TOURNAMENT

In a few communities recreation workers have already adopted health activities as a part of the recreation program. In Baltimore, for example, a nurse is employed as supervisor of a health program which includes, weighing and measuring, health plays and games, health poster

contests, and competition among all the playgrounds in a Modern Health Crusade Tournament. (Information concerning the Modern Health Crusade can be secured from the National Tuberculosis Association, 2370 Seventh Avenue, New York.)

In order to determine what is the need for health activities in a playground and recreation center and how such activities could be coordinated with the regular work, an intensive program was carried out during the past summer at the Holstein Park Recreation Center. This was done with the cooperation of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund, the Municipal Tuberculosis Dispensary, and a neighborhood physician, Dr. S. Musial. Literature explaining the Modern Health Crusade was distributed to over two hundred children attending the playground. Almost two hundred enrolled and meetings of the club have been held every Wednesday with an average attendance of forty. At these meetings, activities have been scheduled similar to those arranged in the Baltimore Playgrounds. Results have not been so satisfactory as in Baltimore, because there has been lacking the spirit of rivalry with other playgrounds.

RESULTS OF ONE SEASON

A physical examination was offered to those boys and girls who were underweight or who on inspection by the nurse (who spent three days a week at the center) appeared to be in greatest need of medical advice. On September first, thirty-seven children had been examined by a physician. In every case, one or more physical defects were found. Also, the questioning of parents and children disclosed faulty food and health habits. Twenty-one children were referred to a throat specialist for examination, and thirty-four for dental treatment. Twenty of the children who were examined have been under close

supervision through attendance at a nutrition class which meets once a week.

The progress of this class during the ten vacation weeks has not been satisfactory compared to that made by classes elsewhere. However, there are certain related facts which must be considered. Thirteen of the children had diseased tonsils, and nine of these had their tonsils removed before school opened. Practically all of these children attend the playground regularly, and have found it difficult to refrain from strenuous play and to take the rests as prescribed by the physician. Though there may be differences of opinion concerning the importance of being up to weight, practically all physicians would disapprove of children participating in athletic events when they are under medical supervision for undernourishment and the correction of physical defects. However, the children who had voluntarily submitted to physical examinations were not kept out of the athletic tests, because this would have made the examinations unpopular during this initial period.

Just how many of the children attending our playground are suffering from physical defects and undernourishment cannot be estimated from the small number of examinations made. However, the following weight records indicate that there is a large number in this group. One hundred and eighty-seven boys and girls who enrolled for the Modern Health Crusade were weighed and measured. Forty-seven, or twenty-five per cent of the total were ten per cent underweight. Out of forty-four girls who entered the athletic tests, only fifteen were up to weight for height. Out of twenty-seven who won badges only eleven were up to weight. The Department of Health statistics show that the death rate of the ward in which Holstein Park is located has been below the average for the city since 1911. The immediate neighborhood is not a congested, industrial community, but one composed largely of small cottages owned by the occupants. Therefore, the probability is that the health standards of our children are above the average.

NEED OF CLASSIFYING PLAYGROUND CHILDREN ACCORDING TO PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

The facts gleaned from our brief experience indicate that there is a danger of recreation centers and playgrounds undoing what the schools and health agencies are trying to accomplish, by permitting all children to take part in

any and all recreational activities without classifying them according to their physical capacities. Instead, the choice is left entirely to the inclination of the individual child. Are not recreation workers missing an opportunity for service by not taking advantage of their intimate contact with the children? Just as soon as the schools have assumed more responsibility for the physical welfare of the children, so must the playgrounds aim to do more than keep the children off the street and give them a good time. If one out of every three children needs an adjusted program, is it not within the province of the recreation workers to find out who are the children belonging to this group and offer them the kind of recreational activities that will raise their health standards? Since all children will be benefited by instruction in health rules, and since such instruction can be given through the medium of play, it should have a place in the program of our centers.

COMPETITION IN HEALTH

Our experience during the summer months has suggested a health program which will fit in with our indoor work. Mr. V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Playgrounds of the South Park Commissioners, has pointed out the necessity of putting an activity such as a good health club on a competitive basis so that the achievements of a club and its members could be rated in the same manner as are the other activities. Keeping this point in mind, a plan for marking the standing and progress of a club and its individuals has been outlined. A rating can be given on each of the following points: (1) Report on physical examination. (Report must be on a standard blank provided by the recreation center). (2) Physical condition as revealed in the report. (3) Weight as compared with height. (This item can be omitted if there is a disagreement regarding the importance of this relationship). (4) Gain in weight. (All normal children should make some gain in weight). (5) Cleanliness and general physical appearance. (6) Good teeth or the repair of diseased teeth. (7) Correction of major physical defects, diseased tonsils, spinal curvature. (8) Regular attendance at meetings. (9) Sanitary police duty at the center or some service to the club. Boys and girls will thus help their playground to attain a higher standing by becoming healthier themselves and by interesting others to do likewise.

Space will not permit a discussion of the objections which have been raised to the program of health activities at Holstein Park. They are the same objections that have been advanced by school authorities throughout the country to the health work now being introduced into the schools. However, it is the Parent-Teacher Associations which have been largely responsible for this greater attention to the health of the school children, because they have been convinced that with children health should be first. This program is being carried out in the schools not through emphasizing disease and its dire results, but through stressing the joy and beauty of good health. The health message is being put across by correlating it with all the other subjects, including athletics.

In the recreation centers and playgrounds, as in the schools, other activities may have to be neglected or given up to make way for nutrition classes, health clubs, physical examinations. But why not? Will not the service rendered the community be thus increased? Will not the task of organizing our communities be made easier if this serious interest is added to make our orthodox program of leisure time activities more vital?

Recipe for Annual Reports

The following suggestions under the title of "A Recipe for a City Manager Report" which have been prepared by Harrison G. Otis, City Manager, Clarksburg, West Virginia, relate specifically to the preparation of reports issued by city officials. There is material here, however, which will be of interest not only to superintendents of municipal recreation but to Community Service workers and others representing private groups who make annual reports of their activities to their constituencies.

The preparation of an annual report gives to the city manager his one big opportunity to play host to his taxpayers. The fact that the charter usually requires such a report and that the city foots the bill, simply increases the obligation resting upon the manager. The report should be a real feast—a Thanksgiving dinner, if you will,—so full of fresh wholesome ideas and food for thought that strangers will devour it from cover to cover.

The citizens will prize more highly the annual report if they have been frequently called upon

to help produce the achievements therein chronicled. A real feast must be carefully planned long in advance. So, too, the annual report. Each week should yield some definite contribution of increased or added service. The field of community welfare should be cultivated to produce a rotation of crops. These crops may be gathered by securing monthly reports from department heads. To each report should be added suggestions whereby the department's efficiency may be increased. Thus the next crop is planted.

A camera is a handy harvesting tool for gathering "before-and-afters." As the end of the year draws near, assemble the stores of facts and select the finest specimens of accomplishment. Sort well and plan the meal.

Warnings. (1) Many a good manager is a poor publicity man; better call in the local newspaper writer and make him your chef rather than spoil an excellent meal by poor cooking. (2) "Too many cooks spoil the broth." Your department heads may not have been selected for their literary ability.

Having picked out the best stories, boil them down, and after carefully removing the "I's", season it with comparison. Unrelated facts are often insipid and hard to digest. These comparisons may be in figures, lines, circles, sketches or photographs. Apply them with judgment and remove any trace of bitterness. Use only the quantity needed to bring out the true value of the accomplishments. Stir in a bit of human interest to keep the pot from boiling dry.

Now prepare the financial statements. If these come to you already prepared from the auditor's delicatessen shop, be sure to inspect them carefully. Finances are a necessary but dangerous part of a report and of little value without proper comparisons. Most tables of statistics will stand condensing. Long inventories of bolts and nuts contain little nourishment.

In assembling the course three things must be borne in mind: (1) It is a report to the people and worthless unless read, hence it must be readable. (2) It is for the people, hence copies must be delivered to all taxpayers, or at least to all the holders of realty. (3) It is to be paid for by the people, hence don't be extravagant by insisting upon embossed covers and thick volumes. Now set your table. Reports must be attractively set up. Your public is not so hungry for municipal information that it will dig ravenously into cold hash served in uninviting packages over the clerk's counter.

Select good paper, good type, good illustrations. Arrange the courses in logical sequence. You are selling good government. Your report should qualify as a "best seller" except that it must be quite free from fiction.

Assuming that the stories of achievement are ready to be taken up, prepare them for the report by cutting into short paragraphs set off by spicy subheads in boldfaced type. Each heading should state an interesting fact and not simply label a part of an exhibit. From these headings select the most toothsome bits as the ingredients for an "appetizer." This may appear as a part of the manager's letter of transmittal or serve as a "foreword" to the report.

If properly prepared and served, the report will find a most enthusiastic welcome, and Mr. Taxpayer will smack his lips and pass up his plate for more good government. Perhaps he will even pay his tax bill with pleasure.

For dessert set forth plans for proposed service and improvements for the coming year, not in full detail but in light outline, so as to leave your guests in a mood of good fellowship and anticipation. Don't be alarmed by the occasional groan of the chronic curbstome dyspeptic. It is reward enough to see the citizens as a whole smoking the pipe of political peace and planning for another year of united Community Service.

Community Day Equips Athletic Field

Aberdeen has a high school building of which any city may be proud, but the school taxes were insufficient to provide a grandstand and fence for Stuart Field where Aberdeen youngsters engage in their most serious business. So the whole community took thought and did not stop with taking thought but got busy.

Lumber came from a large arena that had been constructed for the last Fourth of July celebration. Special lengths were bought by the Aberdeen Rotary Club. The Aberdeen Carpenters' Union and the Rotary Club hammered and sawed through one day. Not to be outdone by the Rotarians, Aberdeen's young men's club, the Activians, put up the fence.

The workers were brought to Stuart Field and taken home from it by trucks furnished gratuitously by the A. A. Star Company and the Johnson Transfer Company.

An Art Industry Which Has Made Good

Making money by the exercise of an art, Joseph Lee has pointed out, is the "best sort of thing." How successfully it is being done in one Rhode Island community is told by Howard P. Bourne of the Neighborhood Cottage Rug Club, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

"Three years ago last summer," writes Mr. Bourne, "a small group of women associated with the Neighborhood House met one afternoon a week to learn to braid rugs. From that small beginning has sprung a home industry which is not only self-supporting but is doing its share toward the support of Neighborhood Cottage.

"We early found that the women preferred to make these rugs at home during their spare moments. We now have an average of thirty women making the rugs and in eight months beginning last November, over two thousand dollars was paid out to these women. Having long believed that home industries could be made to bring in a good return not only to the workers but to the Neighborhood Center, we feel great satisfaction in having proved the fact. At the same time, the rug making industry has proved a splendid medium for getting more closely in touch with the home and its family life. As Rhode Island has been in the throes of a strike for nearly a year and the mills have been closed, whole families have been supported by rug making.

"Our rugs are all made of new materials, being the mill ends from the factories. We make both cotton and wool rugs, but from an artistic viewpoint, as well as from considerations of durability, the wool have proved superior to the cotton. We insist on the best workmanship and the women are paid by the square foot, the rugs being sold on the same basis. The cost of material, labor, and overhead charges are carefully figured out, Neighborhood Cottage receiving a percentage.

"We have found that home industry conducted on a business basis can be made to yield a good profit. It has the further advantage of helping to create a better social life. This winter, the workers are to form a social club at the Cottage, paying dues as do the other groups. Thus, they will be brought into closer touch with the life and activities of the Cottage."

Games with Music

ROBERTA WINANS

III

In arranging the program for a group of adults the leader should consider carefully the best place for each number and the proper balance of active and inactive games, those with music and those without. People who are not accustomed to much muscular activity find a little rhythmic exercise stimulating and extremely enjoyable, but if they become too tired the charm is gone and they are not so ready to take part again, even though they may have been enthusiastic to the point of over-doing the first time.

Most of the games with music are decidedly active. *Swinging in the Swing* is the mildest and is a good one to begin with if the participants are middle-aged or older. With a very active group it may be used later in the program as a comparative rest, though young people sometimes manage to get a good deal of exercise out of it.

Usually more people will join in the Grand March than in any other one thing. This may be the first number on the regular program after all are assembled, or it may be used later in the evening, just before refreshments are served or to wind up with. Besides the Grand March, *Howdy* and *Pack Up Your Troubles* are good numbers with which to start the program. It is well to have some informal singing and perhaps some tricks, stunts or games for the first few who arrive, and then start out with a musical game when most of the guests have assembled.

Following the first game with music should come a quiet "get-acquainted game." From then on active and quiet games should be alternated, working up to a climax at the end of the evening. From a third to a half of the numbers on a program may be with music, and some groups prefer an even larger proportion.

The leader should keep the physical condition and the state of breathlessness of the players in mind when deciding whether to use a walking or a skipping step in a game that permits a choice. High School students usually disdain a walk even in a Grand March, but older people are grateful for steps that are not too strenuous.

After the first evening it is well to let the players choose their favorite singing games besides being taught new ones. Each group is apt

to have one particular favorite which it calls for at every meeting, and sometimes a game will take an entire city by storm, as *Jump Jim Crow*, *Hunting*, and *Swinging in The Swing* have done in different places.

Always bring the evening's play to a definite close. *Good Night, Ladies* makes an excellent game to wind up with and it may be used at each meeting. *Good Night, Hen*, may be substituted for the words in *Howdy*. A song instead of a game may be used for the last number. The Grand March, ending with a cheer makes another good closing. Whatever is chosen, it should be the climax of the evening, after which practically all depart at the same time with a feeling of satisfaction, often humming the music of the last song or game as they go out.

DIXIE

Words and music in *Twice 55 Community Songs*.

Circle of couples. March 16 steps one way, turn toward partner and march 16 in opposite direction, partners' inside hands joined. At the end of the verse stand and face partner.

Chorus:

1. Man marches around his partner, who stands still.
2. Lady marches around her partner, who stands still.
3. Join both hands and take 8 slides in line of direction.
4. Take 6 slides back to place and then the man advances one partner.

JUMP JIM CROW

Sheet music published by G. Shirmer. Use chorus only.

Jump, jump, oh, jump Jim Crow,

Take a little twirl and around you go.

Slide, slide, and stamp just so,

Then you take another partner and you jump Jim Crow.

Form double circle, partners facing.

1. Partners join hands and take two slow and three quick jumps.
2. Turn partner around with running steps.

3. Each moves to the right to meet new partner, two slides and three stamps.
4. Turn new partner, finishing turn with three jumps.
Repeat with new partner.

RIG-A-JIG-JIG

Words and music in *Most Popular College Songs*, omitting 9 measures from middle of chorus. All form a single circle. One player (more for a large group) walks jauntily around inside the circle while all sing. On the words "A pretty girl I chanced to meet" (or "A nice young man, etc.") player bows to one in the circle and they take hands skating fashion. On the chorus both skip around. Repeat from the beginning, both players walking in single file, choosing and skipping. Continue until all are skipping.

CAPTAIN JINKS

Music in *The Tunes Dad Whistled*, published by the Baldwin Piano Company, Cincinnati, O. (Free)

- A. I'm Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines,
I feed my horse good corn and beans,
I swing the ladies in their teens,
For that's the style in the army.
- B. I teach the ladies how to dance,
How to dance, how to dance,
I teach the ladies how to dance,
For that's the style in the army.
- C. Salute your partner and turn to the right,
And swing your neighbor with all your might,
Then promenade all, the ladies right,
For that's the style in the army.

Single circle, facing in line of direction, girls in front of men.

- A. 1. All walk briskly around the circle on first two lines of music.
2. Girls turn, join both hands with partners, and turn with eight skipping steps. At word "army" partners should be standing side by side, inside hands joined, girl on her partner's right.
- B. All skip around the large circle. Finish with partners facing each other.
- C. 1. Man bows and girl curtseys. Both turn right to face new partner.
2. Swing neighbor around with four skipping steps, finishing beside this new partner, girls on the right.
3. All march around the circle, and on the

word "army" the girls step in front of the men, forming a single circle, ready to begin again.

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD NIGHT, MY DARLING

Formation: men in one line and girls in another facing them, partners opposite.

Music for first part: *Just Break The News to Mother*, Music for second part: *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Head man leads head lady slowly down between the lines to the other end and returns to place, while all sing slowly and mournfully, with handkerchiefs in evidence:

Good night, good night, my darling,
It almost breaks my heart,
To think of the midnight hours
When you and I must part.

Man starts at head of line of girls and his partner at foot of line of men, swinging each one in turn with the right arm and turning partner in center with left arm each time. The last time the man leads his partner to the foot of the line. The music and step is much quicker, and all sing:

Evelina, roll around, roll around, roll around,
Evelina roll around, roll around my darling.
Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow.

And so on through additional verses, until all have been turned.

The second couple repeats the game, and each succeeding couple until the head couple is back in place.

GOOD NIGHT, LADIES

Words and music in *101 Best Songs and Twice 55 Community Songs*.

Couples form a circle, men on the inside, partners facing. The outer circle stands still during the verse, while the inner circle moves to the left.

On the first "Good night, ladies," the man shakes hands with his partner. He moves to the left and shakes hands with the next lady, with the next, and with a fourth on "We're going to leave you now." He keeps this lady's right hand and takes her left also, and all slide sideward around the circle while singing the chorus. Repeat from the beginning.

Has Your City as Good a Record as This?—
Oneonta, New York, has one hundred and forty-five acres of parks, one hundred and forty-five square feet per inhabitant.

A Fair Playground

RAYMOND L. QUIGLEY, Superintendent
Playground and Recreation Department
Fresno, California

About five years ago, an experiment in operating a playground as a part of the Fresno County District Fair was inaugurated by the officials of the fair association. The first year apparatus was borrowed from the city playgrounds. The second year the fair association purchased a certain amount of apparatus and installed it permanently on the fair playground.

Since the opening of that first playground, the project has passed from an experimental stage into an accepted fact and is one of the outstanding features of the Fresno District Fair.

The attendance on the ground has grown from year to year, necessitating this year the use of twice as much apparatus as ever before. Even with this added equipment, children were obliged to await their turn for the use of the apparatus. The number of children attending the playground was limited only by the size of the ground.

One of the primary reasons for the popularity of the playground is the opportunity it gives fathers and mothers who bring their children with them to visit certain exhibits that are not interesting to the children, while they play contentedly on the playground. There is usually a crowd of parents and fond relatives looking on at the ground, for invariably when the children are brought for play the older ones become so engrossed in the good time the little folks are having that they linger to enjoy the fun.

The playground was a special source of pleasure for a large number of children from the rural districts, many of whom do not even yet have an opportunity to play on apparatus. Three slides were kept in continual use throughout the six days of the fair, while the baby swings were never idle from the time the fair opened until it closed. The rotary teeters which oscillated as well as rotated, provided a "big kick" for many a ten-year-old boy and girl. The single teeter was a novelty to all and naturally every child in turn had to try it out. The big rock-a-bye swing provided amusement for twelve or fourteen children at a time, while the rockers took care of the smaller ones. The rockers were gorgeously painted, greatly to the delight of the little children, to represent boats, rabbits, and other animals.

For the older boys and girls, high swings, flying rings, trapeze, horizontal bars and sailor ladders provided ample amusement as well as an opportunity for splendid exercise. The settee swing over in one corner of the grounds which was tried out simply as an experiment proved to be a most popular piece of apparatus. It was something new, and the children derived extra pleasure through this feature.

Each year special features have been used in connection with the playground. One year Santa Claus wandered around among the children, telling stories and bringing home the fact that good behavior is prerequisite to a Christmas Eve visit. A health clown put in his appearance at the playground, much to the delight of all the children, and not only provided fun and merriment, but also gave useful hints on health and hygiene.

The playlets, *The Three Bears* and *The Garden Fairies*, which introduced many nursery rhyme characters, furnished no small amount of pleasure to the little folks.

In one corner of the playground, a large canvas tent was set up with a board floor. Water facilities were supplied, tables, chairs, scales, and other facilities installed, and with the addition of several nurses and a doctor, everything was in readiness for the baby show in the interest of **better babies**. For purposes of classification, city children were put in one class, the country children in another. Each of these classes was subdivided into boys' and girls' classes, which again were subdivided into four groups, including babies from six months to a year of age; from one to two years; from two to three years; and from three to four years. In all, there were sixteen classes. A suitable prize was awarded to the winner of each class. The competition was limited to two hundred fifty competitors, though double that number would have been entered had facilities and leadership permitted. Each mother was provided with a pamphlet on hygiene, food and the care of children. The contest proved at the same time popular and helpful. The playground was in operation all day long, while the baby show was conducted only in the afternoon.

Playground supervisors and assistants were loaned to the Fair Association from the city playgrounds, so that the children had trained leadership throughout the entire week. It was estimated that during this period over twelve thousand children used the playground.

One Week's Agreement— Just For Fun

Home Play campaigns are growing in popularity, and city after city is calling attention through them to the importance of this vital phase of community life.

In Hammond, Indiana, the cooperation of the school authorities was secured in working out the plans for play week, and a bulletin was sent from the office of the Superintendent of Schools containing information for teachers from the chairman of Community Service under whose auspices the campaign was being conducted.

The pledge which the children took home to their parents and which was returned by them read as follows:

We agree to cooperate with Community Service in the Home Play Campaign, by carrying out at least 2 suggestions made, or other play activities during week, Sunday, November 19th to Saturday, November 25th.

Address Parents

.....

Parents please sign

PARENTS! JOIN YOUR CHILDREN IN PLAY

Fathers and Mothers: Community Service asks you to enlist in a Home Play Week Campaign, Sunday, November 19th to Saturday, November 25th.

By signing the above agreement, you pledge yourselves to carry out any two of the suggestions contained in this circular, or other play activities that are more to your liking.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Prepare a play space, indoors or outdoors
2. Swing, indoor or outdoor, especially for smaller children
3. Hanging bar or trapeze, for the older boy or girl
4. Pets, even a baby will enjoy looking at a chick, bird or rabbit
5. Sandbox, in yard or basement. Keep sand wet
6. Museum, child's own collection and a place to keep it
7. Work shop, tools and materials for boy or girl, and a special place, their own, basement, attic or elsewhere
8. Equipment for playing ball, skating, or indoor floor and table games

9. Regular play time, parents with children, three times during week
10. Storytelling, three times during week
11. Subscription to boys' or girls' magazine
12. Music lessons, voice or instrument

For children under 3 years, in addition to foregoing, selections can be made from the following:

1. Six colored balls, rubber or worsted
2. Hanging prism
3. Tiny wagon, wheelbarrow, or toy on wheels
4. Vari-colored building blocks
5. A rag doll

Children's Play In Hospitals

The October issue of the *Nation's Health* contained a very interesting article on the work which is being done in the children's ward of the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston.

Under the direction of a woman trained in kindergarten and Montessori methods and in storytelling in libraries and settlements, these children from the tiny babies to the fourteen and fifteen year olds are given recreation suitable to their mentality and interests.

Isabelle L. Whittier is the "play lady" in this hospital. Even small babies suffer ennui when left to convalesce for hours in their cribs, Miss Whittier believes. These she stimulates by tying to their beds six colored worsted balls which swing back and forth. Besides amusing the child they give him his first lesson in concentration. Children of two years are delighted with cylindrical wooden insets, three sets of which can be fitted into holes in wooden bars. This taxes the little patients' ingenuity and keeps them interested for hours.

Children four, five and six years old like to play memory games. From a tiny chest of drawers the blindfolded child draws out a piece of linen, cotton, silk, or velvet, feels it and tells the name of the material. By means of the Montessori dressing frames the children are taught how to dress themselves.

Children from eight to fourteen are interested in a variety of things and their amusements are therefore of greater scope; they are also more difficult to entertain for individual tastes begin to assert themselves. Nature study, on the whole, is a common interest. Bird charts help them to identify birds they have seen.

Some of the children enjoy handicraft and make from old cigar boxes attractive lacquered work boxes.

Parties are as fascinating to the bedridden child as to the active youngster able to run about. At these parties Miss Whittier brings out her magic chair, a dainty gilded thing with a music box in the seat. The legend is that when a good child sits on the fairy chair a tune plays. One by one the children wrapped in their blankets are placed on the chair. There is a slight pause before the music starts and each child perforce recalls any misdeeds during the month. The look of suspense is followed by a gasp of joy when the music starts.

Recreation work for hospital children is still undeveloped. Many games have to be discarded as being too noisy. Kindergarten methods require too much supervision to be of great use, in the opinion of Miss Whittier, but the Montessori methods have proved successful, for the reason that the children can teach themselves. There is still a lack of occupations for older boys.

Of the value of Miss Whittier's work from a medical standpoint, Fritz B. Talbot, Chief of the Children's Medical Service, Massachusetts General Hospital, says:

"Miss Whittier has filled the lacking gap in our ward and the results have been beyond my expectations. * * * * Miss Whittier's cooperation in amusing and educating the children has been of more than academic and humanitarian interest because it has been of real therapeutic value and has hastened the cure of the child. I feel that there is a place for such work as Miss Whittier carries out in all hospital wards for children."

The Municipal Players of Los Angeles.—People from all walks of life are members of the Municipal Players, organized by the Los Angeles, California, Playground Department. All participants in this group, which has both an adult and a children's department, are volunteers and they do all their own stagecraft work, write their own plays, make their costumes and wigs, and paint their scenery. "Within six months or a year," writes Mr. C. B. Raitt, Superintendent of the Playground Department, "we shall have our own theatre."

The Money Moon, dramatized from Jeffrey Farnol's novel by Dorothy Thickett and Ellen Galpin, who is in charge of the dramatic work of the department, was recently given by the Municipal Players.

Convention News

AMERICAN COUNTRY LIFE ASSOCIATION HOLDS ITS FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Child and Adult Education, the Ethical and Religious Resources of the Country Community and Effective Rural Leadership were the main topics of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Country Life Association held at Teachers College, Columbia University, November 9-11, 1922.

"A wall has been built between the city and the country," said Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, who made the opening address. "Because of this wall, the city has gone on neglecting and exploiting the country without realizing what it was doing."

Dr. Butterfield reminded his audience that a democracy stimulates activities which make for fullness of life for all the people and that the chief task of rural education is the provision of abundant life for country people. Some of the methods he suggested for realizing this ideal were:

The improvement of rural schools so that every country child shall receive the equivalent of the education provided for the city child

Training for agriculture

Training for citizenship

More emphasis on culture and appreciation of nature in rural education

More opportunities for developing the social and spiritual side of life.

A neglected aspect of rural education was touched upon by Mr. Aaron Sapiro of California, Attorney for the Farmers' Cooperative Association,—namely, the economic education of the farmer. He has been helped in his individual problems of production but when it comes to his marketing problems which must be solved through group action, he has been helped not at all. The conference of the fruit growers of California in efficient marketing and standardization were described by Mr. Sapiro to illustrate how the improvement of the economic life of a rural community and the consequent raising of living standards inevitably results in an improvement in the whole educational and social life of that community.

In describing "The Handicaps of the Rural Child," Dr. Brinn of Cornell University emphasized the need for more "socializing" influences

in rural education and deplored the general belief on the part of farmers that recreation is one of life's non-essentials. Some of the specific lacks in the cultural and social life of the country, he pointed out, were that only 4% of the children in rural communities were provided with children's books and children's magazines; that rural library service reached only 2/5 of the people; that good copies of masterpieces of art were seldom found in country homes; that while musical instruments were common in the country homes, people who could play on them were rare.

The shortcomings of the rural school, especially the lack of well trained mature men and women for teachers, came in for an important share of consideration during the conference. Federal aid was proposed as a remedy, since only by paying better salaries can the services of teachers of high grade be secured and retained in rural schools.

The church in country life came in for serious consideration, and the feeling was expressed that while the church was rallying as perhaps never before to the needs of people in rural districts, there are still many problems within the church to be solved before it can become as effective as it should be.

Problems of leadership, always the concern of those who have at heart the welfare of rural districts, still prove puzzling though some progress has been made in introducing courses in educational institutions and in the utilization of rural communities as laboratories.

Not only are rural education and the resources of the church and other rural community agencies primary factors in making for fullness of life in rural communities, but governmental considerations must also enter in. A complete re-organization of county government was stated by Mr. Richard Childs of the National Municipal League to be of fundamental importance before rural districts can "come into their own."

Encouraging to workers in the community organization movement was the report of Dr. Walter Burr of the University of Kansas on the results of a questionnaire sent to a number of rural sociologists and Directors of University Extension Departments, the majority of whom felt that rural community organization is more active at the present time, than it has ever been before and that the social center movement has become a permanent part in the life of the community. A further adjustment of existing insti-

tutions such as the churches and the school to meet existing needs and the employment by the farm bureaus of specialists in social life, were among the recommendations made by Dr. Burr.

How competition between towns may be used as a method to stimulate rural community organization was described by Mr. Nat Frame, Director of the Extension Department of the University of West Virginia, who, in cooperation with the State Department of Education and other groups is helping to stimulate community life in small places through the use of community score cards. Very thrilling indeed are some of the results obtained. The report from Berlin is illustrative of what some of the far-reaching activities which the people of the communities themselves are organizing and carrying through. A few of them follow:

Organization of a Community Council, holding monthly meeting

Writing of a local history

Exhibits at the County Fair (nine prizes won)

Gathering of information about county and state officers

Organization of Farm Women's Club with all kinds of activities

Painting and redecorating of a number of homes

Organization of 4 H Club

Life abundant for the people of rural districts through education, through social life, through the development of all community resources and governmental agencies—this was the keynote of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Country Life Association.

Barnyard Golf.—Barnyard Golf has taken Hagerstown, Maryland, by storm, according to John L. Hurley, Director of Community Service. Community Service courts were first built on one of the playgrounds and a Saturday afternoon tournament was started. Gradually the number of entrants increased and soon it was found that men were practicing on the courts at night by the light of oil torches. This discovery led to the laying out of new courts and stringing of lights by the city light plant so that night tournaments might be held. Prizes were presented by the Ross-Stevens Horseshoe Co. of Cleveland and the Union Malleable Iron Co. of East Moline, Illinois.

The Round Robin tournament which wound up just before Thanksgiving offered as prizes two turkeys.

The Question Box

Question: "What can be done to pull the people together in a village of 1,500 inhabitants?"

Answer: Although the work of Community Service has been confined largely to large towns and cities, local Community Service organizations have been established in a number of small villages, as in Southport, N. C., Stockbridge, Mass., and several villages in Ohio. Hamilton-Wenham, Massachusetts, illustrates the possibilities for community recreation in a village of less than 3,000 population. The work in the places listed above is under the direction of a Community Service Committee composed of individuals representing the various groups in the community who are interested in different phases of the leisure time program. In general, the activities are conducted by special committees such as a Committee on Music, Dramatics, Social Recreation.

In a great many small communities, one of the first causes for united effort has been the realization of the need for a common meeting place for community gatherings. Government bulletins contain accounts of how a number of rural communities were successful in securing a community building and describe the variety of activities centering in the building. Accounts of similar buildings in other rural communities together with suggestions for their organization, financing and use are contained in two other bulletins which may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. The titles of these bulletins are No. 1192 Organization of a Rural Community Building, and No. 1274 Uses of Rural Community Buildings. These bulletins clearly indicate the importance of a meeting place for social, educational and recreational purposes in uniting the citizens of a rural community.

In a number of states rural community clubs are being promoted by state-wide organizations. In Virginia and North Carolina these clubs generally meet in the schoolhouse, although their interests lie not only along educational but along civic and recreational lines. The Extension Department of the University of West Virginia has devised a method of scoring communities for their achievements along such lines as civics, health, and recreation. The element of competition between the various communities thus introduced has been an important factor in arous-

ing an interest and cooperation on the part of all elements in the community.

A pamphlet entitled Recreation in Rural Communities contains a variety of suggestions for recreation activities suited to rural groups. Our handbook, Rural and Small Community Recreation describes various forms of community work and contains practical suggestions for a rural recreation program.

Question: Will you tell me some of the winter activities which cities in America are conducting?

Answer: Last year skating was one of the most popular activities in Chicago. There were four hundred skating rinks and all of the recreation departments cooperated in making the program successful.

St. Paul, too, has a skating season which last year began on December tenth and lasted until March first. The organization of the Outdoor Sports Association in 1921-1922 will, it is believed, do much to promote outdoor activities. The first step taken by the new organization soon after its creation last year was to erect five toboggan slides in each section of the city. A carnival was held, on each night of which a sports program was conducted.

Minneapolis, which is fortunate in having wonderful skating facilities, conducts skating tests, the races being run according to height five feet, five feet three inches, five feet six inches, and five feet nine inches. Skiing clubs and a municipal skating club have been organized in Minneapolis, the city supplying a quarter mile speedway for speed skaters. The girls' skating club is a popular organization, the girls playing baseball games on ice and trying out similar features.

In Denver tournaments have come into their own, the cooperation of the city making possible a large program. City-wide use is made of the toboggan slide, and skiing has become exceedingly popular.

In cities where the climate does not permit of skating or ice sports roller skating, shinny or tug of war on roller skates, hiking clubs, canoe clubs, baseball, kitten ball and field hockey make desirable substitutes. In Lynchburg, Virginia, field hockey has become one of the favorite sports, the sticks which are used being secured from carriage and wagon makers.

Book Reviews

THE THOUGHTS OF YOUTH. By Samuel S. Drury, Rector of St. Paul's School. Published by The MacMillan Company, New York

Very delightful indeed and instructive without being pedantic is this little series of talks to boys and girls by Samuel S. Drury, Rector of St. Paul's School, whose sympathetic understanding of young people illuminates each page of the book.

There are twenty chapters bearing the following titles: My Family, My Friends, My Vocation, My Manners, My Health, My Religion, My Bible, My Country, My New Year, My Lost Time, My Five Brothers, My Garden, My Out-of-doors, My Teacher, My Spring Time, My Walks Abroad, My Broken Leg, My Relatives, My Pictures.

PUPPY-DOGS' TALES. Edited by Frances Kent. Published by the MacMillan Co., 64 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Price \$2.00

A book which contains a large collection of stories and poems about many different animals, especially dogs and cats. The book is designed particularly for children between four and six years of age who like pets and enjoy hearing and reading stories about them. Some of the stories are well-known ones retold and many of the pictures are really true photographs or copies of sketches by famous artists.

THE CHILDREN WHO FOLLOWED THE PIPER. By Padraic Colum. Published by The MacMillan Company, New York City.

Few of us ever knew what happened to the children who followed the piper into the hill, or what wondrous adventures befell them when the hillside closed behind them. Padraic Colum tells the story in a most fascinating manner in his recent book which Dugald Stewart Walker has illustrated with charming pictures.

READING MATTER IN NEBRASKA FARM HOMES. By J. O. Rankin. Published by Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Nebraska and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

This pamphlet which contains the results of the study made throughout the State stresses the importance of the promotion of leisure time facilities through library extension. "Library buildings, so far as their accommodations permit, may be used as community center buildings. Storytelling, for the benefit of the children, may be a valuable adjunct even in the smaller communities. . . . Recreation and pleasure are important benefits which every member of the farm household of school age or above may obtain from reading. Relaxation is necessary, not only for the sake of having a good time, but also for the sake of efficiency. . . . Properly selected reading matter will greatly increase both the physical and mental pleasures of farm life and will assist in the social community life. It is just at this point that the reading matter of Nebraska farm homes appears to fall furthest short of its possibilities. The Nebraska farm dweller can get any of the benefits of visiting other people in our own country and abroad without the expense of travel. We can profit from the best of art and learn what the world is doing, know the thoughts of the best minds, and see strange people and scenes, without leaving our homes."

"Homemade fun is often much better than purchased fun and less likely to leave bad effects. It is better to play in a ball game or any other game than to sit and watch without getting the benefit of the exercise, the training and team work, or any of the other good effects of participating. It is much better for the country community to secure its own well-selected plays and present them for itself, even if crudely, than to depend upon the commercialized amusements which can be purchased at so much a performance by going away from home."

SPONTANEOUS AND SUPERVISED PLAY IN CHILDHOOD,

By Alice Corbin Sies. Published by The MacMillan Company

The purpose of this most interesting study has been summed up by Professor George E. Johnson of Harvard in the preface when he says, "If the main task of civilization is, as Wallas suggests, to produce a new environment whose stimulation of our existing dispositions shall tend toward a good life, then the chief office of education is to provide an environment whose stimulation of the predisposition of children shall tend toward a good life. This is just what the author has done. She planned an environment adapted to stimulate the play tendencies of children toward right responses."

A wealth of material is to be found in this book in which the author, from "case records" gathered through long experience in watching the spontaneous and supervised play of little children on the Pittsburgh playgrounds, gives her interpretation of the educational meaning and value of particular types of play and games. This interpretation, however, is not based solely on the author's observation, but on a thoroughly scientific study of psychology and of theories and methods of education. It is an exceedingly valuable contribution to the literature of the play movement.

In part one, as a basis for the deductions of the following chapters, the author differentiates between work and play which, she says, do not differ in origin or results but only in the movement of the activity itself. "Most situations which are legitimately called play in childhood are, in reality, highly complex social situations, resulting in a combination of work and play. The problem is to keep the play attitude dominant and to increase the work element with the age and development of the individual."

Part two is devoted to a discussion of dramatic play, its effect on behavior, and its place in education. Illustrative material used in connection with it make this chapter thoroughly illuminating.

In part three, movement plays of children are thoroughly discussed and the significance of movement, the value of motor activities, and the value of play involving natural forces and materials are all taken into account.

Visual exploration and experimentation with sound are the subjects of the last section of the book.

Not the least valuable feature of the publication are the questions and topical references and exercises in appendix A which are exceedingly helpful in the use of the book as a textbook.

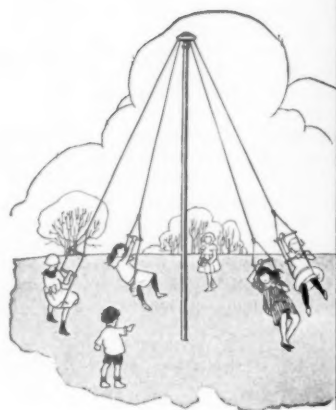
OUTLINE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC TESTS. Prepared by Frances L. Seibert and Clinton S. Childs of the Alexander House Settlement, Maui, Hawaii

Physical education syllabi are finding a large field of usefulness, and their use is by no means limited to the United States. The publication of this syllabus from Hawaii has been made possible through the cooperation of the Maui School Athletic League and the Alexander House Settlement, two organizations which are doing much to promote athletics for the island.

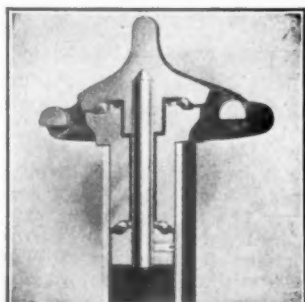
Monthly lesson plans arranged by grades, story plays, rhythmic plays and exercises are to be found in the outline as well as the athletic and physical tests which, with charts and a scoring system, form a large part of the plan. A very practical section of the Syllabus is that dealing with the construction of inexpensive apparatus used in taking the tests and playing the games listed.

THE PRACTICE OF CITIZENSHIP. By Roscoe Lewis Ashley. Published by the MacMillan Company.

The child is a member or citizen from his early years, but during the early part of life real membership is limited chiefly to two social groups—the home and the school. "It is impossible for the school boys and girls," says the author, "by imagining themselves to be adult citizens, to take an active part in the work of the government. It is the easiest thing in the world, however, for them to study without pretense the needs



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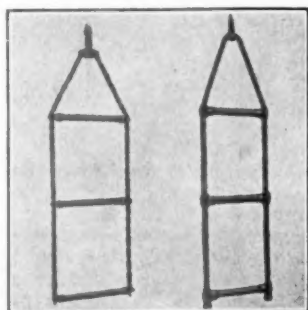
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of the home and the school and to interest themselves in the activities of both. By active participation in home and school, they soon discover what are the rights and duties that go with their civic relations as members of those groups and they actually perform the civic duties pertaining to their membership in them."

With this conception of citizenship practice in mind, the author leads the child by gradual stages from individual needs to personal and civic relationships and from the small group and its relations, to municipal, state, national, and international methods. The questions at the end of each chapter, many of which cannot be answered from the text but which require additional study and thought, focus the students' attention on fundamental principles and problems.

Considerable attention is given the relationship of recreation to citizenship, and the child is well grounded in the importance of proper recreational facilities as a civic asset.

POSITIVE HEALTH SERIES, issued by Women's Foundation for Health, Inc., 43 East 22nd Street, New York City

The Women's Foundation for Health, Inc., is an organization for the correlation of the health plans of fifteen national women's organizations, formed with the purpose of correlating the health activities of the various organizations in a program for positive health.

The Foundation has issued a series of six leaflets which will be of interest to community workers—Pamphlet #6 to workers in the recreation field. Part 1 contains an article on Recreation for Health Building, by Mr. E. C. Lindemann, and some exceedingly practical material on recreational activities for girls, together with a list of sources of information for recreation leaders. Part 2 discusses recreation and health, emphasizing in a way which is very significant, the need for creative, aesthetic and art expression in the recreation program.

USES OF RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDINGS. Compiled by U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1274

A few years ago, there appeared two bulletins on Rural Community Buildings issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, (Farmers' bulletins #1192 and #1173) which contained valuable suggestions for the organization of community buildings and for construction plans. *Uses of Rural Community Buildings*, (Farmers Bulletin #1274), supplements these two publications in a very practical manner and has in common with them the virtue of being very informative and suggestive. Here will be found information on standard types of buildings and their uses, and descriptions of activities conducted in a number of buildings along economic, educational, recreational, political, religious, social, and athletic lines. Representative examples of community buildings activities are given with the data on the type of building, uses, and results. Many illustrations help make the stories graphic.

As a result of the study, Mr. Nason, who prepared the bulletin, reaches the following conclusion:

"If the value to the neighborhood of a community building is to be estimated by the uses to which it is put and the needs it satisfies, then this study would seem to indicate that the community building, as a general rule, must be accorded a high valuation. Not all communities which own such houses are awake as yet to their full possibilities, but there are enough examples of efficient use to warrant the conclusion that the community house is destined to prove an effective instrument in the improvement of rural social conditions."

THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION. By Dr. Jesse F. Williams. Published by the MacMillan Company

"To help set standards, to help state the facts that are scientific and demonstrated, to suggest tests and guides that can be used, and to report favorable progress in this field, is the purpose of this book."

In bringing together the material which appears in *The Organization and Administration of Physical Education*, Dr. Williams has more than fulfilled his purpose. He has given an array of practical facts which cannot fail to be of very great value to workers in the physical education and recreation field. Starting in with the historical background and aims of physical education, Dr. Williams proceeds to outline the guiding principles in organization and administration, giving suggestions for the organization of departments of physical education in schools and colleges and for the training of the teachers, supervisors, or directors of physical education. The objectives, content and material activities of the gymnasium and playground receive due consideration. Athletics and athletic problems are discussed from various angles and the recreational phases of the athletic program are not neglected. The health of students and physical efficiency tests form an important section of the book. There are discussed, too, such technical considerations as excuses, substitutions, credit, attendance, roll taking, and grading. Much of interest to the technical worker will be found in the charts and tables which appear in connection with a number of the chapters.

PLAY PRODUCTION FOR AMATEURS. Compiled by the Bureau of Community Drama of the University of North Carolina. Price \$.50

Prepared primarily for the use of amateur directors of school and community clubs, this booklet, listed as Extension Bulletin #14 of the University Extension Division, is designed as a practical working guide, and is based on the experience of the Carolina Play Makers in meeting the problems of producing plays with very limited staff facilities and with no financial support except the receipts obtained from the performances. The chapters on production, adapting a platform stage, lighting, scene painting and make-up, together with a bibliography, makes this booklet very valuable for amateurs.

THE PRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS DRAMA. Prepared by the Commission on Church Pageantry and Drama, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City

"Today," writes the Reverend Thomas F. Gailor, in a preface to this book, "when people are responding as perhaps never before to the influence of dramatic impersonation and action, it is right and proper that the church should take advantage of and use this method of inspiration and instruction."

To aid the church in promoting drama, this simple primer has been devised to put within easy reach of church workers the simplest and most effective means of educating through plays and pageants. The material outlined in the book includes the historic background of church drama and chapters on Standards of Taste; Religious Dramatization in the Church School; The Average Small Production; The Large Production; The Work Shop; Settings and Properties; Costumes and Color; Lighting; Hints on Play writing, Suggestions for the Organization of a Diocesan Religious Drama Committee and of a Parish Religious Committee and a Bibliography, including a few of the popular books on each phase of religious drama.



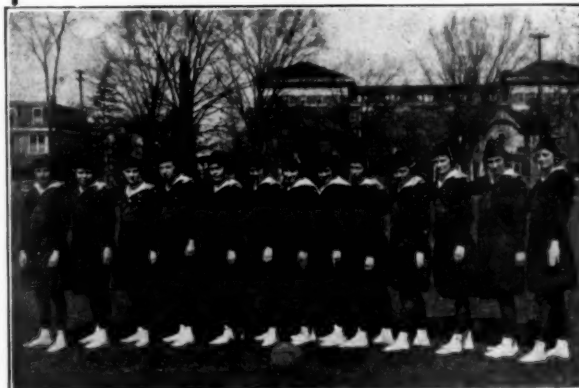
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Storytelling in Elmira, New York

(Continued from page 477)

After the pageant, the supervisors of all the playgrounds assisted by volunteer storytellers, amused the hundreds of children with all types of stories. Each storyteller was dressed in costumes illustrative of the kind of story told. Attractive posters guided the children to the different groups, while the child was free to wander to the one which pleased his fancy most. Fairy, Indian, Nature, Japanese, True, Ghost, Spanish, Mother Goose, Animal, and many other stories were told.

After-School Piano and Violin Classes for Lowell, Massachusetts.—After-school piano and violin classes were started in Lowell by the Music Committee of Community Service, with Inez Field Damon, director of music in the State Normal School, as Chairman. The work was carried into the public schools with the consent of the Board of Education, the Superintendent

of Schools and the Music Supervisor. About 450 children registered for the courses. No children were accepted who had studied with a private teacher within a year. Twenty cents per lesson was the price and the money went to the teacher. The Board of Education did certain necessary printing, and keyboards were contributed by an interested music dealer. Grade teachers with piano and violin ability were selected as teachers. In May of the first year sixty children from these classes gave a public recital presenting both group and solo work. The children announced the names and keys of the pieces they were about to play, played scales in various keys, transposed their pieces into any key called for from the audience and harmonized simple melodies with the three primary chords. The following year the Superintendent of Schools made it possible for two of the Assistant Supervisors of Music to organize and supervise the classes as a part of their regular work. A similar recital was given at the end of the second year with equally satisfactory results.

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Prof. P. W. Dykema of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, writes: "You have put out a valuable book which should be welcomed by teachers, camp workers and parents who realize that in children's fascination for Indian life there are splendid possibilities for education of mind and body."

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Good Music for Community Singing

(Continued from page 457)

permanent satisfaction that comes with a real affection for great music." It is of no use to tell me that the public will reject good music; I know from experience that this is not true. Moreover—and this is more important—it is not necessary to introduce the best music gradually by the use of poor or moderately good music. In fact, too often such a course definitely closes the door to higher ideals. More than one community song leader who would like to better his standard, finds himself today in the position of a false

prophet through his use and advocacy of inferior music as a beginning for community singing.

We are forever being told that community singing is about to improve its standard; that a better grade of music is to be used; that the old hat-over-the-eye and joke-out-of-the-corner-of-the-mouth method of leading is soon to pass away, and that the popular musical millenium is at hand. Community singing, in fact, is in danger of becoming the permanent periphrastic—it is always "about to be," but never quite "is." And it is largely due to the apostles of musical mediocrity that this static condition exists. It will not do to take refuge in the plea of inadequate leadership. To be sure, good music, when *well* presented, has a better chance of being immediately adopted, but the really necessary thing is that it should be *sincerely* presented. Then the music will have a chance to speak for itself, and the vitality, the permanent good that lies in it will offer a stern resistance to any presentation however unskilful. It is the *music*, not the *leader*, which would and will, if given a chance, address itself to the people.

I know of one camp song-leader, who, during the war, used no music that was not of the first quality. (And, here let me say that good music is not necessarily complicated music; folk-songs are among the best music and folk-songs are essentially simple.) After the men, under his instruction, had learned a few pieces like *Men of Harlech*, *Bonnie Dundee*, *The Lorraine Marching Song*, and *Who Would not Fight for Charlie*, they never once asked for the supposedly popular tunes which were making the rounds of the camps. One very beautiful melody of an entirely serious nature he was warned by other camp song leaders not to use, as it would certainly be ridiculed and rejected by the soldiers. On the contrary it became very popular, and upon inquiry proved to be the favorite of a large majority of those who had learned it. If the people were let alone by publishers who have inferior music to exploit, and by song-leaders who have neither an all-absorbing love for good music nor a real faith in human nature, the best music would get a chance; for, as an observant musician has pointed out, the people, when left to themselves make their own music. And what is that music? Well, what indeed, but folk-song?

And we must be willing to *work* for good music. Community singing is like throwing a ball against a hard surface. You get as much rebound as you put force into the throw. En-

thusiasm, love for the cause, patience, and perseverance will succeed where saving of self, half-heartedness and satisfaction with a moderate standard will fail.

And, last, we must have *faith*. What right have we to assume that people instinctively choose poor music over good? It has been many times proved that this is not so. We ought to be willing to give really good music a chance. Of course there are delays, discouragements, and disappointments; but what good cause has not had these?

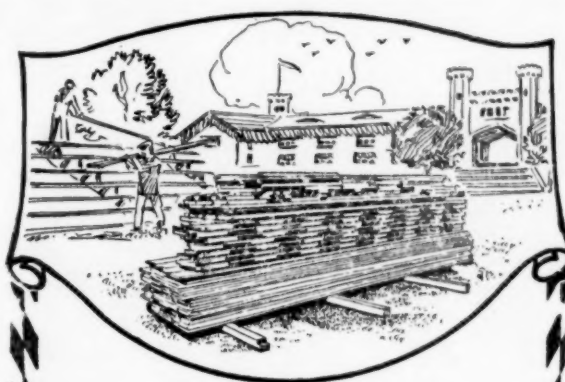
A sincere love of the best music, an eagerness to work untiringly for its success and a faith that in that success lies the key to real community singing; these, I believe, are what we need. If community singing is worth doing, it is worth doing not *well*, but the *best* that it can be done.

MUSIC MEMORY CONTESTS NOW NATION-WIDE. Figures as to the extent of music memory contests as compiled by the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music show that 405 such competitions had been held in this country up to November 1, 1922. The geographical distribution of the contest is indicated upon a map prepared by the above bureau. Will your city be marked on this map in 1923? The entire routine of carrying on a memory contest is set forth in two bulletins prepared by Professor Peter W. Dykema and issued by Community Service: Complete Music Memory Selections, List #1, and Publicity for Music Memory Contests. The companies which manufacture records for mechanical instruments will also render expert assistance. For instance, a booklet on "The Victrola in Music Memory Contests" is available without charge to any readers of this magazine who will address the Educational Department, Victor Talking Machine Company, Camden, New Jersey, and state that they read this offer in *THE PLAYGROUND*. That booklet gives further suggestions for organizing the contest, together with descriptive notes on more than 250 standard selections.

"Show me the boy who never broke
A pane of window glass,
Who never disobeyed the sign
That says: 'Keep off the grass';
Who never did a thousand things
That grieve us sore to tell,
And I'll show you a little boy
Who must be far from well."

Edgar Guest

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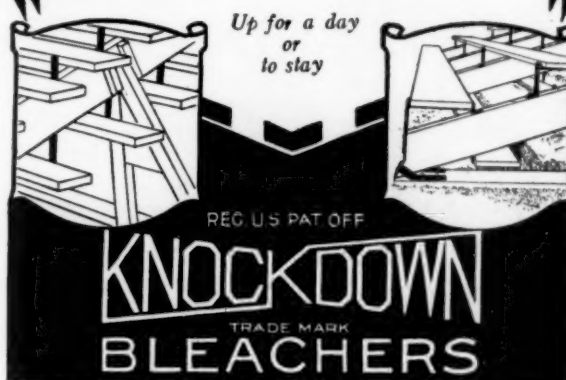
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A Workable Plan For Civic Music

(Continued from page 465)

By the exercise of strict economy a portable band stand has been purchased for use next summer.

RELATION WITH NEIGHBORHOODS

An exceptional *esprit de corps* has been developed between the Civic Club and the Boards of Trade and other organizations in the communities where the small band concerts were played. Thirty organizations and individuals outside of the club membership contributed to the success of the concerts.

Each week in the large parks, just previous to the singing, a concise statement of the value of park music and its cost to taxpayers, was thrown upon the screen. Just previous to the singing, the announcement that the final week had arrived was accompanied by the statement that in the Fall the Mayor, Council, Director of the Department of Public Works and superintendent of the Bureau of Parks would act upon the budget for the next year. Those who wished to express an opinion of the concerts were told to write to the Civic Club. The communications received, which came almost entirely from the rank and file of the population, exhibited regret that the season was concluded and praise for the programs, both instrumental and vocal.

The Hyacinth

In the days when men and gods walked more closely together, Apollo became strongly attached to a Laconian youth, Hyacinthus. Now even the gods are jealous and Zephyrus resented the bond between the two. So one day when Apollo and Hyacinthus were playing the time honored game of quoits, Zephyrus blew one of Apollo's quoits out of its course and caused it to strike the Laconian on the temple, killing him. Grief-stricken at the death of his friend, Apollo caused a flower to spring up from the blood of Hyacinthus, and he called the flower, Hyacinth. And Hyacinth to the Greeks became the symbol of play and of games.

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One of the panels used in Community Service Exhibit at Portland, Oregon,
shown at the Tourist and Sportsman Show held in the National Guard Arm-
ory during the Portland Rose Festival in May 1922